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# The John Crerar Library

1895-1944

*An Historical Report*  
Prepared Under the Authority of  
The Board of Directors

By  
THE LIBRARIAN



CHICAGO  
1945



## Preface



In 1898, when the writer first visited the John Crerar Library, he expected least of all that it would become part of his duty to attempt an historical record of the first half century of the Library's life.

The task, now done but hardly accomplished as it deserves, has not been favored by that larger inspiration which comes with a serene and peaceful world. But as this Library's life has many points of general interest, and the writer has witnessed its progress for nearly forty years, the Directors deemed it desirable that the inspiration from within our institution would better find a voice while memory still is green. To impersonate this voice indeed is an honor.

The biographies of Mr. John Crerar and Mr. Norman Williams, by Professor Thos. W. Goodspeed and Mr. E. W. Blatchford, respectively, and some chapters of personal reminiscences and observations by my former and present associates will, I hope, contribute to round out the picture which I have attempted to draw. Chapters II and VII, necessarily became largely documentary. In some of the other accounts of the composite work of Directors and Library officers, very little anecdote but some well considered opinions have been injected as expressive of our institutional ideas, principles and practices. The long and detailed account of our important acquisitions may serve as a mirror for some of our colleagues and help indicate reasons for such success as we may have had in *giving needed service*.

J. CHRISTIAN BAY,  
Librarian.



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I

## *The Founder: John Crerar*

*By THOMAS W. GOODSPEED*



This sketch properly begins and ends with the last will and testament of John Crerar. In more respects than one that will was unique. It had the following very unusual beginning:

"My father, John Crerar, a native of Scotland, died in New York when I was an infant, leaving my mother, my brother Peter and myself his only heirs. My mother remained a widow for a number of years and was then married to William Boyd. The issue of this second marriage was one son, my half brother, George William Boyd, who died unmarried in 1860. My step father died in 1864, and my mother was again left a widow with her two sons, Peter and myself. My mother died March 28, 1873, and my brother Peter died in 1883, a widower, leaving no children.

"My mother's maiden name was Agnes Smeallie. She was born in Scotland in 1795 and a line of relationship on her side is clearly defined.

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*Professor Thomas W. Goodspeed's biography of John Crerar was printed in the University Record, New Series, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 98-119; April, 1920, and is reprinted here by kind permission of the University of Chicago.*

*For the purpose of the present occasion and to avoid repetition some passages and quotations have been shortened and a few statements completed to include data later than 1920.*

"My first cousins are children of my late uncles, James and John Smeallie, late of Florida and West Galway, State of N. Y., brothers of my mother. Through them I have second cousins and third cousins. These cousins, first, second and third can be readily traced; some I have seen, others only heard of by the hearing of the ear.

"With these explanations it remains with me to make a disposition of my estate.

"I am a bachelor and was born in New York City, but have been a citizen of Chicago since 1862."

It will be noted that in this unique preface to the will the slightest possible mention is made of the father, and none whatever of any relatives on his father's side, while much is told of the mother and of first, second, and even third cousins on her side. And yet so far as the records show the Crerars were a more ancient and numerous family than the Smeallies. The Crerars appear in the earliest Scottish parish registers of marriages and births. These important records seem to have been instituted, at least in the country districts of Scotland, by the Presbyterian church when it displaced the Catholic church in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The register of the parish of Kenmore records the marriage on May 14, 1637, of "John Dow Crearar" and again in 1640 of "John Dow Crerar," evidently his second marriage. This variation in the spelling of family names seems to have been common in Scotland. The Crerars were a numerous family and were scattered through many parishes. They belonged to the common people and appear, for the most part, to have lived in country districts and, probably, followed agriculture.

The parish register of Dull, County of Perth, from which John Crerar's father, John, migrated to the United States when a young man, records that a John Crerar, early in 1788, married Margaret McFarland. They had three sons, Peter, born late in 1788, James, born in 1789, and John, born July 2, 1792. Peter and James married in the same

parish and each had a son named Donald. One of these Donalds will appear later in this story. The youngest brother, John, apparently left the old home unmarried and settled in New York City. There he met and married Agnes Smeallie who had also migrated from Scotland to New York in her youth. Both were Presbyterians, and they doubtless found each other in the Scotch Presbyterian church to which their son, John, remained greatly attached to the end of his life. The naming of their other son Peter shows the family attachment of the father. Had there been a third son there would have been another apostolic succession, apparently, of Peter, James, and John.

Ancestors on the mother's side are not traced farther back than 1710. There are bewildering differences in the ways in which they spelled their names, as Smeallie, Smellie, Smail, Smeal, Smalle, Smale, etc. These differences in spelling constantly occurred in the same family. In the record of the births of the three children of Alexander Smellie of the parish of Kirkliston the first-born was written Smeal, the second Smellie, the youngest Smeallie. The father of Mr. Crerar's mother, Andrew Smeall, born in 1748, was the son of John Smale. The daughter of Andrew Smeall was Agnes Smeallie, the mother of John Crerar. In his last will and testament he says she "was born in Scotland in 1795." The register of the parish of Kirkliston, however, records that she was born April 1, 1797. Where and when John Crerar, the father, and Agnes Smeallie were married does not appear, nor when they migrated to the United States. We are not told the father's business and know nothing of his circumstances at the time of his death July 23, 1827. We only know that he left a widow and two sons, Peter, the elder, and John, an infant a few months old. As the will says the widow and the two sons were "his only heirs," it may, perhaps, be believed that the little family was not left destitute. This is rendered still more probable by the fact that the mother a few years later married William Boyd, a business man occupying the important and no

doubt lucrative position of head of the New York branch of the iron and steel business of an English house. Whatever may have been the circumstances of the family before, they were no doubt much improved after this marriage, and all the boys were given such education as the schools of New York City afforded.

The mother must have been a woman of character, intelligence, and attractiveness. Her sons were taken to the Scotch Presbyterian church and certainly John early became a devout and zealous Christian.

Young Crerar was a diligent student. He did not carry his education through a college course, but continued it long enough to conceive a love of books and a habit of reading which always remained with him.

The New York of Mr. Crerar's childhood was what would now be called a small city. When he was born, in the early part of 1827, its population was less than 175,000. While he was growing to manhood it increased to 300,000. When he left it to make his home in Chicago it had become a large city of 850,000 people.

Young Crerar continued in school till his eighteenth year and then entered the service of the house of which his step-father was the New York manager. Here he remained for several years, advancing from one position to another, and about 1850 was sent to the branch house of the firm in Boston. He had become a bookkeeper, and was sent to Boston, perhaps, to organize, or reorganize, the bookkeeping. At all events he remained there only a year or so and then returned to New York. It does not appear that he became again associated with his stepfather. He found a better position than that house had for him and became bookkeeper for another large iron firm. He continued this work, always on the lookout for something better, for perhaps three or four years, until he was twenty-nine years old. He must have been anxious to get into business himself. He could not but be conscious of the possession of business ability, but he was always a modest man, and being without capital

he did not see his way clear to engage in business independently.

It was just at this time that a great piece of good fortune, the greatest of his business career, came to him. He made the acquaintance of Morris K. Jesup. Mr. Jesup was a little more than two years younger than Mr. Crerar, but already in business for himself. He had established in 1893 a house dealing in railroad supplies, and during his commercial career became a man of very large wealth. He came to be one of the leading business men of the country. But it was his long life of philanthropy, a life devoted to the service of mankind in religion, in education, in charity, in encouraging exploration and scientific research, that made him one of the eminent men of our history. He lived till 1908, but retired from business in 1884 because, as he said, "I found that both business and charitable work were becoming so absorbing that one or the other must suffer if I continued to do both. So, after careful consideration of the whole matter, I retired from business and have devoted my spare time to working for others and for the public interest." Mr. Jesup then was only fifty-four years old. He lived twenty-four years longer. It may be justly said that he devoted fifty-five of the seventy-eight years of his life to his fellow-men.

Commander Peary said in 1910: "To Morris K. Jesup, more than to any other one man, is due the fact that the North Pole is today a trophy of this country." His biographer, William Adams Brown, gives a summary of the official positions he held which indicates the wideness of his sympathies and the scope of his philanthropic activities.

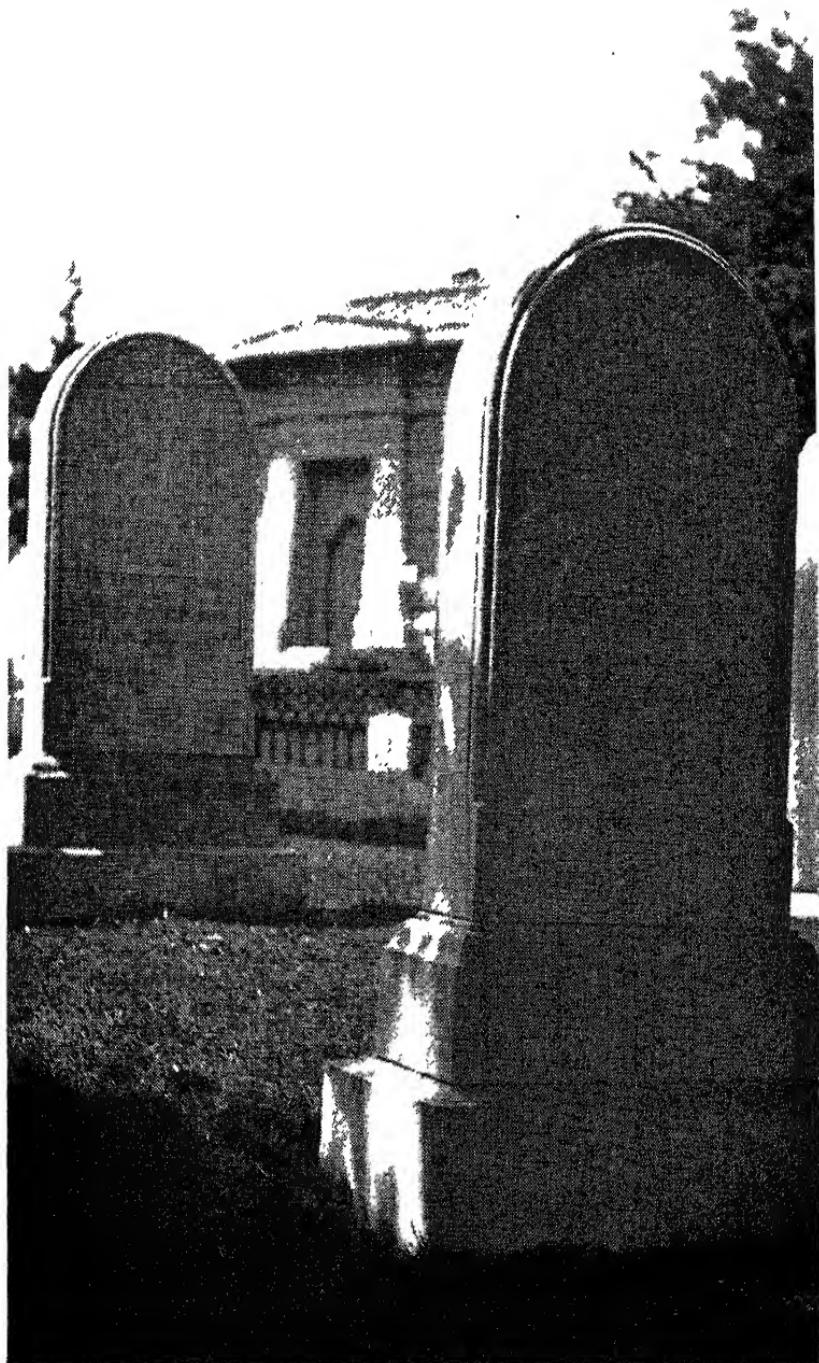
This was the man with whom John Crerar became acquainted about the beginning of 1856, with whom he became associated in business, and whose partner he remained to the end of his life. The influence of this association on Mr. Crerar's life was very great. The way in which they came together was as follows. Mr. Jesup had started in business in 1853 with a Mr. Clark who had been a bookkeeper in a

bank and had some capital. Mr. Jesup had no capital, but he knew the railway supplies business from the bottom up. The partnership continued three years, during which time Mr. Clark was bookkeeper and office man, while Mr. Jesup attended to all the outside business. The firm prospered, but for some reason a dissolution took place in 1856. Mr. Jesup would need a competent bookkeeper and office man and turned to his new acquaintance and friend, John Crerar. But let him tell the story:

"I became acquainted with Mr. Crerar in 1856, then bookkeeper in the large iron house of Raymond and Fullerton in New York. I was then in business in New York under the firm name of M. K. Jesup and Co. One day, in the year 1856, seeing Mr. Crerar writing at his desk, I put this question to him, 'John, would you like to better your position?' His instant reply was 'Yes!' I said, 'Come and see me at my office.' All this resulted in my taking him into my employ as clerk, and within a very short time making him my partner in business. . . . In the year 1859 I established a house in Chicago under the firm name of Jesup, Kennedy and Adams, J. McGregor Adams who was then a clerk for me in New York being sent to Chicago to take the management of this business. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Crerar was sent to Chicago and the firm changed to Jesup, Kennedy & Co. Some time in the early part of 1863, Messrs. Crerar and Adams succeeded to the business and established the firm of Crerar, Adams & Co.

"My long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Crerar gave me the rare opportunity of knowing of what stuff he was made. He was a man of sterling integrity, of strong religious convictions — a kindly heart and a true friend. . . . I never knew a man who had so many real friends. He was social, though at the same time retiring, modest and humble, and in life counting his chief pleasure the being in the society of, and intimate relations with, his friends.

"Mr. Crerar was a frugal man, lived without display or ostentation, and I often used to tell him that he was too



THE GRAVES OF JOHN CRERAR AND HIS MOTHER



much so, and that he ought to be more among other men, giving his money while he lived and having the enjoyment of seeing it well administered. His uniform reply was, 'I am satisfied and content.' . . . I could say much more about this good man; there lived none better."

It is evident that young Crerar possessed such an unusual combination of qualities for success in a business which he had been studying for eleven years that his early entrance into the new firm of M. K. Jesup & Company was inevitable. The other member of the new house was John S. Kennedy. It must be remembered that the railroad-supplies business was then in its infancy in this country. The iron age and the railroad age had just begun. The firm of M. K. Jesup & Company was just beginning to get on its feet and its members were poor men. It had the advantage of starting at the outset of that period of unprecedented development which has covered the continent with railroads and made the last seventy years our Railway Age. Being men of great business ability they availed themselves to the utmost of the extraordinary opportunities of the new era, and the firm entered on a career of great and increasing prosperity.

Mr. Crerar did not long remain in New York after becoming a partner in the company. While he did remain, however, he manifested that enlightened interest in organized efforts for the good of the community which characterized his later life. He constantly engaged in the activities of the Scotch Presbyterian church in which he had been brought up by his devout mother. He was much interested in the Mercantile Library Association and became president of that body. He was a member of the Union Club, the Union League, and the Century Club, and continued his membership in these organizations after leaving New York.

The first railroads from the East, the Michigan Southern and the Michigan Central, entered Chicago in 1852. Immediately that period of railway development began which within a little more than fifteen years gave Illinois a greater railroad mileage than any other state in the Union and

made Chicago the great railway center of the country. It was inevitable that the city should become the chief distributing point of railroad supplies. Mr. Crerar and his partners were not slow in recognizing what this meant for a business like theirs. It meant, not merely that such a business was likely to be successful in Chicago, but that it was imperatively demanded there. Chicago became the one location on the continent for a business in railroad supplies. In 1859, therefore, as quoted above from Mr. Jesup, J. McGregor Adams was sent to Chicago to inaugurate the business, and became a partner in the Chicago branch, which was known as Jesup, Kennedy & Adams. It was so successful from the start that two and a half or three years later Mr. Crerar, then a member of the parent house, found it necessary to go to Chicago to care for the expanding business, and the firm name became Jesup, Kennedy & Co. Messrs. Crerar and Adams were the junior partners. It will be recalled that Mr. Jesup says that "sometime in the early part of 1863 Messrs. Crerar and Adams succeeded to the business and established the firm of Crerar, Adams and Co." Mr. Jesup is undoubtedly correct in this statement, but, on account of the business value of the old title, the new firm continued to do business under the name Jesup, Kennedy & Company for five years. The city directory of 1868 was the first to contain the name of "Crerar, Adams & Co., manufacturers and dealers in railroad supplies and contractors' materials, 11 and 13 Wells St."

Twenty-one years later, in 1889, the Commercial Club, an organization of the leading business men of Chicago, paid the following tribute to Mr. Crerar, who had just died:

"The Commercial Club has met a peculiar and irreparable loss in the death of John Crerar. The death of a man who is both strong and good must always seem irreparable and probably always is irreparable. But Mr. Crerar was, besides, the most devoted and faithful member of the organization . . . and we who are his fellow-members have experi-

enced a personal affliction such as can rarely come out of the intercourse and friendships of social life. He was not a recent friend nor one who could make a light impression upon his neighbors. We knew him intimately for many years; he was a part of ourselves, and he was such a man as must fill, by the importance of his qualities, a large place in the lives of his friends. He was remarkable for the way in which his character combined force with geniality. His strength and incisiveness seemed to find no contrast or opposition in his exceeding geniality, but these several qualities combined and mingled in him to the producing of a most delightful and unique man. . . . His conspicuous personal attractiveness, his fine and wholesome example as a gentleman, his constant, varied, most generous and yet most discriminated charities, his conspicuous business conservatism and judgment, so justified by success, and the steadfastness in his religious life, made him a man of rare value and usefulness to all circles with whom he closely associated, and to the large circle of the great city.

“Because we knew him so well and valued him so highly, and because we bore him so warm an affection, we wish to make some expression like this which may be at least a slight evidence of the impression his life made upon us and the sorrow we feel at his death. And to make this expression as permanent as we can, we, the members of the Commercial Club, now resolve that, although any words we can use must seem inadequate and inexpressive, these be made a part of the permanent records of our Club.”



What then was the life that John Crerar lived in Chicago for twenty-seven years that won for him such a tribute of admiration and affection from these hard-headed men of business who knew him so intimately?

From the first he had thrown himself into his business with great energy. He had partners, but none of them ever

seemed to question his dominance. They were able men and recognized his leadership. The terms of partnership were determined by him and accepted by them without any written contract, as just and even liberal to the other members of the firm. In his last partnership, to which the other parties were Mr. Adams and Mr. Shepherd, he wrote out a partnership agreement, but the other partners never examined it till after his death. They were then surprised to find that no figures indicated the extent of their interest in the business. No difficulty, however, arose on this account. The matter had been understood between them and the estate was settled without trouble. Moreover he had left \$50,000 to each of them as a token of friendship and confidence.

The business grew with the amazing growth of the western railroads. It soon became known as one of the most important business concerns in Chicago. It had been started originally by Mr. Adams in a small place on Dearborn Street. In 1865 it was moved to much larger quarters at 11 and 13 Wells Street, at the corner of South Water Street. The building has been noted as being one of the only two iron-front structures in Chicago, but was entirely destroyed in the fire of 1871. Immediately after the fire, business was resumed in a "mere shanty" that had been put up for temporary use at the corner of Adams Street and Michigan Avenue, and in these makeshift quarters it remained for a year. At the end of that time the Robbins Building had been completed on the old site and the business was transferred to it and there continued to be conducted during Mr. Crerar's life. The house soon came to be the largest concern of its kind in the Middle West. Edward S. Shepherd became a partner, and after the death of Mr. Crerar he became the sole owner of the business. In a great building in 239 E. Erie Street, on the north side of Chicago, overlooking Lake Michigan, Mr. Shepherd continued the business under the old name, Crerar, Adams & Company.

The business expanded so rapidly that a manufacturing

department soon became necessary. Such a department was therefore secured by the purchase of a business already existing, which was reorganized as the Adams & Westlake Company, manufacturers of railroad-car trimmings, lamps, lanterns, and sheet-metal specialties. It came to include brass and bronze foundries of the most modern type. Though founded earlier the company was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1869. Since 1872 the main factory and offices of the company have been on the north side and later covered the entire block bounded by Orleans, Ontario, Franklin, and Ohio streets. Before the death of Mr. Crerar, he and Mr. Adams had, to a considerable extent, divided their interests, Mr. Crerar and Mr. Shepherd retaining Crerar, Adams & Company, and Mr. Adams taking over the Adams & Westlake Company.

Cook's *By-gone Days in Chicago*, referring to the year 1862, the year of Mr. Crerar's coming to the city, makes the following interesting statement:

"Reference should be made to a group whose names are familiar to nearly every Chicagoan today, but who, for the most part, were wholly unknown in 1862; or just rising into recognition within the lines of their specialties, yet in a few years were to dominate almost every branch of commercial activity. . . . Marshall Field and L. Z. Leiter were merely rising junior partners. Wm. F. Coolbaugh and John Crerar were new arrivals. Lyman J. Gage had just been promoted to the cashiership of the Merchant's Savings Loan and Trust Company, and beginners with them were George M. Pullman, S. W. Allerton, A. M. Billings, John W. Doane, N. K. Fairbank, John C. Gault, H. N. Higginbotham, Marvin Hughitt, B. P. Hutchinson, General A. C. McClurg, Franklin MacVeagh . . . while Chief Justice M. W. Fuller was a rising young lawyer."

Mr. Crerar, modest and retiring as he always was, soon came to be recognized as one of the leading business men of the city. When the Commercial Club of Chicago was in contemplation he was invited to become one of the thirty-

nine constituent members. Though not particularly addicted to clubs he was a devoted member of this one which was made up of the leaders of Chicago business. I have already indicated the admiration and affection in which he was held by his fellow-members.

It was inevitable that, with Mr. Crerar's business ability and increasing prosperity, he should extend his interests beyond his immediate business. He did not make any considerable dealings in real estate. Other forms of investment made a stronger appeal to him. He was no speculator, but very conservative in his views and methods. Yet he had a business instinct and an open and foreseeing mind that led him to consider and enter into new and large projects, that, in his judgment, promised great development. When, therefore, Mr. Pullman laid before him his revolutionary palace-car plans, he listened, weighed, and, finally approving, engaged in the organization and financing of the Pullman Palace Car Company. It seems incredible now, but fifty-five years ago Mr. Pullman's projects were so new and strange and revolutionary that few believed them practicable, least of all perhaps railroad men. He had little capital himself and found it very difficult to enlist capitalists in his scheme. He was a young man, only thirty-four years old in 1865. Perhaps the nature of Mr. Crerar's business enabled him to grasp the possibilities of the new sleeping-car, and he entered so fully into Mr. Pullman's plans that when the Pullman Palace Car Company was finally organized in 1867 he became one of the incorporators and a member of the board of directors. He continued on the board of directors from the formation of the company to the end of his life, a period of twenty-two years, and did his full share in promoting the success of the company.

Soon after beginning business in Chicago, Mr. Crerar became a director of the Chicago & Alton Railroad. His connection with this company had one very interesting result quite unrelated to business. It brought him, of course, into close business relations with the able president of the road,

T. B. Blackstone, and their relations resulted in an intimate and lasting friendship. So strong was his attachment to Mr. Blackstone that, when he made his will in 1887, though his friend was a man of large wealth, he left to him a bequest of \$5,000 "to purchase some memento which will remind him of my appreciation of his uniform and life-long kindness to me."

Mr. Crerar was long the Chicago director in the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company. He was one of the original stockholders and a director of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, a director in the Chicago & Joliet Railroad and for a time president of this road. He had large interests in the Joliet Steel Company. These are only indications of the wideness of his business interests which continually reached out in new directions as his prosperity increased.

Mr. Crerar's independent business career was not a long one. It was restricted to less than thirty years. After becoming the head of the house of Crerar, Adams & Company it continued only twenty-six years, when death brought it to an end. He lived to be only sixty-two years old. He had been very successful. If he had lived longer, his success would have kept pace, doubtless, with that of his contemporary associates who carried their large activities on into the new century.

In closing the introductory paragraphs of his will Mr. Crerar said, "I am a bachelor and was born in New York City, but have been a citizen of Chicago since 1862." Why he never married does not appear. He would seem to have been eminently fitted to give and receive happiness as the head of a family. He did not escape the raillery to which all bachelors are subject. He received it good-naturedly, insisting that he was not insensible to feminine charms. When railed on the subject his usual answer was: "I am in love with all." Being a bachelor he lived in hotels, the last ten years of his life at the Grand Pacific.

We may be certain that one of the first things he did after reaching Chicago was to identify himself actively with the church. He was deeply religious. He had been so from his youth, and in Chicago entered the Second Presbyterian Church. He was soon made an elder and a trustee, and for more than twenty years was one of the pillars of that church. His religious interest did not diminish as his wealth increased. He regularly attended the church prayer meeting. He was a constant reader of the Bible. His favorite chapter was the eighth chapter of Romans, which he knew by heart. When the new building of the church was erected at Michigan Avenue and Twentieth Street, he contributed \$10,000 toward the extinguishment of the debt. All his friends knew him as a Christian man. He was outspoken in his faith and never hesitated to defend Christianity when it was attacked in his presence. "He has been known to exclaim in a tone of impatient disgust, at hearing some one ask if he really believed that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, 'Oh! bosh! What has that to do with religion?'" This is an illustration of what was said of him that though he was very much of a gentleman "he was a singularly candid man and when occasion demanded could be abrupt." During the later years of his life the pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church was Dr. S. J. McPherson, between whom and Mr. Crerar a most affectionate friendship developed. Mr. Crerar indicated his strong attachment to him by leaving him a bequest of \$20,000. His will also revealed his love for the church and the depth of his doctrinal convictions. He left to the Second Presbyterian Church \$100,000 "so long as said church preserves and maintains the principles of the Presbyterian faith." But he also left the church without reservation \$100,000 for its mission schools. He did not forget the church in which he had been brought up and to which all his family had belonged, the Scotch Presbyterian Church of New York City, to which he left \$25,000. He also left the Presbyterian League of Chicago \$50,000. He was a loyal Presbyterian.

But his religious interest was not confined within denominational lines. He was greatly interested in the Chicago Young Men's Christian Association and became one of its devoted adherents throughout his life in Chicago. He was vice-president of the Association and left it \$50,000 in his will.

For many years Mr. Crerar took an active interest in the work of the American Sunday School Union. Each year he gave cheerfully and liberally to the support of the work throughout his long and successful career. When he was disposing of his property by bequest he put these words in his will: "I give and bequeath to the American Sunday School Union, established in the City of Philadelphia, hereby requesting that said sum be employed in promoting the cause of said Sunday School Union in the Western States and Territories, the sum of \$50,000. . . . I should prefer that the legacies or bequests be used so that the interest would keep missionaries in the field, or would enable good to be done as opportunities present themselves."

This suggestion as to the general policy of the Sunday School Union of the use to be made of legacies has been followed in the use made of Mr. Crerar's bequest with remarkable results. Every year since 1893 a report has been published showing the work done by the missionaries supported by the income of the fund. At the end of twenty-five years it appeared that three missionaries had been employed each year. About 1,600 Sunday schools had been organized in remote districts of the North and West, with nearly 60,000 scholars. These missionaries had aided in various ways 10,000 Sunday schools in which there were 160,000 pupils. They had distributed 12,000 Bibles or portions of Scripture. Nearly 90 churches had been organized and about 7,000 converts had been led into a new life. These reports are documents of real human interest. They make these dry figures live with tragic interest in the incidents they detail of the new hope and joy and life carried into many remote wilderness places.

And this reminds me of what one of his partners has told about him. As he sat at his desk in his office he kept in the upper right-hand drawer, where it was nearest his hand, a check book. When people came in asking his help for any cause he would hear them considerately and if they made a case that appealed to him he would reach for the book and write them a check, entering on the stub what it was for. When his effects were examined after his death, these check books were found and proved to be interesting reading. For example, on the stub of one check was found the following: "A woman going about doing good." It was said of him: "His philanthropy knew no bounds or limits, but was constantly active and progressive, without ostentation."

Religion and religious causes did not exhaust his sympathies. He was a director of the Presbyterian Hospital and bequeathed to it \$25,000. All the philanthropies that interested him in life he remembered with great munificence when he came to make his will.

The great relief organization for ministering to the destitute in his day was the Chicago Relief and Aid Society. He was one of its officers and took an active interest in its work, leaving it \$50,000.

He was particularly interested in the Chicago Orphan Asylum. When writing his will and leaving the asylum \$50,000, he added, "Of which I am now vice-president," as though that personal relation gave him satisfaction. In his early days in Chicago he was secretary of the board of the Hospital for Women and Children which then existed. It was only Mr. Crerar's modesty that kept him from official connection with a score or more of the charitable and other institutions of the city. He was a liberal contributor to their treasuries. To some of them he belonged, as the Chicago Literary Club and the Chicago Historical Society. He aided the latter in securing its first building after the great fire and left it \$25,000 in his will, and to the Literary Club he left \$10,000.

To organizations with which he had no official connection

the munificence shown in his will was only the carrying on of the interest he had manifested in repeated benefactions during his life. Here is the list, excluding those already mentioned and others to be mentioned later: the Nursery Half Orphan Asylum, \$50,000; St. Luke's Free Hospital, \$25,000; Chicago Bible Society, \$25,000; St. Andrew's Society of New York, \$10,000; St. Andrew's Society of Chicago, \$10,000; Illinois Training School for Nurses, \$50,000; Old Peoples' Home of Chicago, \$50,000; Chicago Home of the Friendless, \$50,000.

Among the many services the Commercial Club has rendered to the community not the least was the founding in 1882 of the Chicago Manual Training School, now a part of the high school of the University of Chicago. Mr. Crerar was much interested in the project. He was one of the subscribers to the fund of \$100,000, raised by the Club to inaugurate the work of the school. He was made a member of the committee to determine the plan of organization and was one of its board of directors to the end of his life. His belief in the work of the school was so great that in making his will he provided a bequest to it of \$50,000. He did not indicate in the will how this sum was to be used. His fellow trustees, however, doubtless followed what they knew to be his preference when they established a John Crerar Prize to be given to the best student of each graduating class, distributed the larger part of the income in free scholarships for poor boys needing such assistance.

Soon after the University of Chicago began its work the trustees of the Manual Training School opened negotiations with its representatives looking to the incorporation of the school into the University system. This was finally consummated in 1902 when the Manual Training School became a part of the University High School, bringing the University funds and equipment amounting to about a quarter of a million dollars. A part of this was the Crerar Fund of \$50,000. In the Articles of Agreement it was provided that an annual prize of \$20 should be given to

member of each class in the Manual Training Department to be known as the John Crerar Prize; that a scholarship should be given to one member of the graduating class in the Department which should entitle the holder to free tuition through a complete course in any department of the University, to be known as the John Crerar Scholarship, and that the remainder of the income should be used in paying, either in whole, or, in part, the tuition in the Manual Training Department of poor and deserving boys who would otherwise be unable to avail themselves of its privileges, to be known as the Crerar Aid. It was also provided that the principal of the John Crerar Fund should never be impaired or diminished, or the income in any way diverted from the foregoing objects or purposes.

Thus for nearly thirty years in the School and the University twenty and twenty-five boys have been helped every year to an education in which the hand and the mind have both been trained. And he will, through this endowment, continue to do this as long as the University endures.

Mr. Crerar was at one time a trustee of the first University of Chicago, but doubtful of its prospects withdrew from the board. Three years later the institution closed its doors. He did not live to see the present University established. The public movement for its founding was inaugurated in Chicago only four months before his death. He was one of the men before whom the plans for the new institution would have been laid, and who would have given them sympathetic consideration. The University may well feel honored in having the name of such a man as John Crerar enrolled among those who have established special funds for the benefit of those it is preparing for the business of life.



Mr. Crerar's life was not an eventful one, except in the rapid accumulation of wealth. He became Mr. Jesup's partner when about thirty-three years old. He was in business

for himself only about twenty-nine years and had just begun to become known in New York when he made the new departure which took him to Chicago. His life in our city was limited to twenty-seven years. Beginning at the bottom of the business ladder he climbed steadily and rapidly, but it necessarily took half these twenty-seven years to gain a position of any considerable prominence. He was therefore a well-known and leading man of business for relatively a few years. He had no liking for prominence or desire for position; he would not accept the presidency of the Commercial Club. He was a strenuous Republican in politics, but once only took any public place. In 1888 he accepted a nomination and was elected a presidential elector in the Harrison campaign. A bachelor with no family life he might have been expected to seek society in the many clubs that were open to such men. But among social clubs he joined but one — the Calumet. He was fond of a quiet life. He was not a great traveler and abroad but once. He preferred the city to the country, almost never accepting invitations to visit his friends in their country homes. He was very regular in his habits. Summer and winter he retired and rose at the same hour. He was fond of reading. In his newspaper reading he was always on the lookout for good stories and jokes. These he cut out and preserved. He had a keen sense of humor and would often inclose a humorous clipping in an envelope and send it anonymously to some friend who would enjoy it. He enjoyed this all the more if it had some personal application his friend would appreciate. After his death a box of these newspaper clippings was found among his effects. He always had scholarly tastes, which he did not permit the exacting demands of a constantly expanding business to suppress. In his young manhood his interest in the Mercantile Library Association of New York made him its president. It was this Association that brought W. M. Thackeray to this country on his lecturing visits, and it is said that Mr. Crerar was largely instrumental in these invitations being sent to the great novelist. A sound interest

in books and literature made this iron merchant a member of the Chicago Literary Club and so appreciative of its work that he left it a bequest of \$10,000, as already stated.

To one who knew him we are indebted for the following personal glimpse of Mr. Crerar: "His demeanor to his fellow-men was the very type and example of equable, dignified gaiety, good humor, kindness and charity toward all the world. . . . His favorite attitude was standing firm and erect, the lapel of his coat thrown back and his thumb caught in his vest (pocket). To see him in this position was a signal for gay welcoming and recognition for friends." And another says of him: "His dignified yet gentle bearing attracted the eye no less than his kindness and sympathy warmed the heart." There was an air of distinction in his appearance that attracted attention in any company.



Mr. Crerar's mother did not live to see her son's larger successes. She died in 1873, nine years after he established himself in Chicago. He was always very tenderly attached to her. As he never married he continued to regard New York, where she remained, his home, as long as she lived. But after her death Chicago became home to him, and his attachment to the church, his interest in the things that made for a better city, and his friendships among the best and greatest Chicagoans of his day were such that he became devotedly attached to the city and often declared that he could not be happy permanently in any other place.

Few men have had a higher compliment paid them than came to Mr. Crerar after the great Chicago fire of 1871. He immediately entered with his characteristic energy into the relief work of the Relief and Aid Society, and the New York Chamber of Commerce and other large donors sent their great contributions for the stricken city to him for distribution.

He had a peculiar genius for friendship. His partners

were his friends. Throughout his business career in Chicago he continued in the partnership which was formed at the outset. J. McGregor Adams said of him: "He was a high-souled generous man, liberal in all things, and one whose friendship was a thing to be prized and to be proud of. He was a philanthropist of the noblest type and did a wonderful amount of good in a quiet way. For twenty-five years he and I have been business partners and during that long period we never had a quarrel or dispute in any way. To his employés he was always the same, pleasant, genial, approachable. Frank and outspoken and decided in his views he never hesitated to express them, though it was always done in an affable manner. He had a vein of quiet humor that made him a very companionable man. Full of fun and anecdotes, he dearly loved a good story."

Mr. Crerar retained his health till he had passed his sixty-second year. It began to fail in the spring of 1889. In August of that year Dr. Frank Billings went with him to Atlantic City, it being hoped that the sea air would do him good. But on September 9 he suffered a partial stroke of paralysis in his right side. As soon as it seemed safe he returned to Chicago and to the home of perhaps his dearest friend, Norman Williams, and there died on October 19, 1889, in the sixty-third year of his age.

He had said in his will: "I ask that I may be buried by the side of my honored mother in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y., in the family lot. . . . I desire a plain headstone, similar to that which marks my mother's grave to be raised over my head." These requests were faithfully carried out by his friends. The "plain headstone . . . raised over his head" bears the following inscription: "A just man and one that feared God."

On December 22, 1889, a great memorial meeting was held in Central Music Hall, which was then the great auditorium of the city. Rarely has such a tribute been paid to the memory of a private citizen. The great hall did not begin to accommodate the multitude who sought admission. It

was found necessary to close the doors before the hour set for opening the exercises.

In one of the addresses it was said of Mr. Crerar that the use he made of his wealth caused him to rise from "a private citizen to the ranks of creative men." And this brings us again to that remarkable document with which this sketch began, his last will and testament.

In the first place, it was not made in any immediate expectation of death. It was not the hurried work of the sick bed, but the well-considered, fully matured work of a man little past middle age, in the full vigor of health, with the possibility of many years of active life still before him. It was made in 1887, two years before Mr. Crerar's death, and evidently the result of long reflection and final, deliberate purpose.

In the second place, it was not devised for the purpose of making amends, in the final disposition of his wealth when he could no longer hold on to it, for the shortcomings of his life. It was the final and natural expression of his character and the life he had always lived. His father, who died when he was an infant, he had never known, and apparently he knew nothing of any relatives on his father's side. He had been devoted to his mother, and anyone related to her, or who had been kind to her, was not without claims on him. The giving of money to religious and charitable causes had been the habit of his life. He had been a reader of books. He loved good literature. The Literary Club where books were the themes of discussion, he had particularly delighted in. Having no family, his evenings had been devoted to books. They had formed a large element in his life. One can imagine him in these long evenings of reading and reflection, thinking of the many thousands in the great city who would enjoy books as much as he did if they had access to them, and of the unspeakable benefit great collections of books would be to them. And one can easily conceive the satisfaction that filled his whole being when the purpose to establish a great free library was formed in his heart.

But, however just these remarks are, it remains true that the greatest and most significant act of Mr. Crerar's life was the making of his will. He himself must have felt this to be true. He approached the task very seriously. After the prefatory remarks quoted at the beginning of this sketch he continues: "It remains with me to make a disposition of my estate."

He bequeathed, to begin with, something over \$500,000 to cousins on his mother's side, to friends who had been kind to his mother, to his partners, and to other personal friends.

Then followed bequests of nearly \$900,000 to religious, educational, and charitable causes as has been related in preceding pages.

He left "\$100,000 for a colossal statue of Abraham Lincoln." Of this bequest, Judge B. D. Magruder, speaking before the Chicago Literary Club, said: "With a modesty that bespeaks the greatness of his soul, he orders a simple headstone to be placed at his own grave, but that a colossal statue be raised to the man who abolished slavery in the United States. The millionaire is content to lie low, but he insists that the great emancipator shall rise high. . . . This contrast between the headstone and the statue indicates, as plainly as though it had been expressed in words, Mr. Crerar's estimate of true heroism. Doing good to others was his conception of greatness."

The heroic statue of Lincoln was practically the final creative work of the genius of Augustus Saint Gaudens. It was placed in the hands of the South Park Commission of Chicago, and placed in Grant Park. It was loaned by the Commissioners to the Panama Exposition and was seen and admired by the millions of visitors to San Francisco in 1915.

The final provision of Mr. Crerar's will reads as follows:

*"Recognizing the fact that I have been a resident of Chicago since 1862, and that the greater part of my fortune has been accumulated here. . . . I give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, remainder and residue of my estate both real*

*and personal for the erection, creation, maintenance and endowment of a Free Public Library to be called The John Crerar Library and to be located in the city of Chicago, Illinois, a preference being given to the South Division of the city inasmuch as the Newberry Library will be located in the North Division. . . . I desire the building to be tasteful, substantial and fire-proof and that a sufficient fund be reserved over and above the cost of its construction to provide, maintain and support a library for all time. I desire that the books and periodicals be selected with a view to create and sustain a healthy moral and Christian sentiment in the community and that all nastiness and immorality be excluded. I do not mean by this that there shall be nothing but hymn books and sermons, but I mean that dirty French novels and all skeptical trash and works of questionable moral tone shall never be found in this library. I want its atmosphere that of Christian refinement, and its aim and object the building up of character, and I rest content that the friends I have named will carry out my wishes in those particulars."*

The will made no mention of relatives on his father's side and bearing the Crerar name. His father had died when he was a few months old. His mother does not appear to have had any acquaintance with his father's family, and the boy grew to manhood without any knowledge of Crerars related to him. There were such Crerars, however, though they remained apparently ignorant of his existence until the press carried the news of his large bequests throughout the world. They were then heard from and in contesting the validity of the will their contentions confirm the view here advanced. The attack on the will was made by Donald Crerar and others who said "that in his will, Mr. Crerar made no mention of his next of kin on his father's side and seemed to be ignorant of the fact that there were such next of kin; that he gave divers large bequests and legacies to his cousins on his mother's side; that he left no kin of nearer degree than first cousins and that complainants are his first

cousins on his father's side and constitute all of his first cousins and next of kin, except the first cousins on his mother's side, who were named in and given certain legacies by the will; that all of the cousins to whom such legacies were given have accepted the same and have released all claims against the estate, and that complainants are entitled, as next of kin and heirs at law, to share in all property owned by Mr. Crerar at the time of his death and not legally devised by him."

A great legal battle ensued. A considerable array of able lawyers was employed on both sides, the will being defended by Williams, Holt and Wheeler, and Lyman and Jackson, the law firms of the two executors, assisted by James L. High and John H. Mulkey. After failing in the lower courts the contestants carried the case to the Supreme Court of the State. It was not till 1893 that the contest came to an end and the will was sustained in every particular.

It was Franklin MacVeagh who said of Mr. Crerar at the great memorial meeting in the Central Music Hall: "He has set us an example of the right use of wealth, the great uses of wealth, the permanent uses of wealth, and the final uses of wealth."

## II

### *Organization—*

*1889-1895*



This is an account of the life of an institution organized for public enlightenment and benefit. It also is an assertion of a purposeful historical continuity; a footnote to our metropolitan history, a picture of the fulfilment of a generous act.

Mr. John Crerar, born in New York in 1827, passed away in Chicago on October 19, 1889. The events of his life have been traced and described by Professor Thomas W. Goodspeed. It was a strenuous, very active and eminent-ly useful life of a successful business man, a man of strict principles and of assured integrity. His business enterprise inevitably led to the accumulation of a substantial fortune. Mr. Crerar's deep conviction of the truth of revealed religion through Christianity was proved without ostentation by his life, his memory among contemporaries, and by his last will and testament.

This document, repeatedly printed for distribution by order of the authorities of the Library, is a notable docu-ment. The testator, who never married, possessed a most lively family sense and recognized by his will a wide circle of relatives, even distant ones whom he presumably never had met. A man of few but close friendships, he looked about him with benevolence and made his dispositions ac-

cordingly. By its wide span of sympathy, John Crerar's will became a very interesting document. It provided generous gifts to a dozen or more public institutions, churches and religious societies and to Mr. Crerar's business associates. It even contains wise words of counsel to such of the legatees as might "have but little acquaintance with business matters . . . for example, if a farm is mortgaged — suggest that the mortgage be paid off," etc.

The sum of one hundred thousand Dollars was dedicated to the erection of a colossal statue of Abraham Lincoln. This statue, designed by Augustus St. Gaudens, in time was erected on the lake front (Lincoln seated) at a cost of about \$70,000, the balance being paid into the trust funds of The John Crerar Library.

The fiftieth provision of Mr. Crerar's will reads as follows:

Recognizing the fact that I have been a resident of Chicago since 1862, and that the greater part of my fortune has been accumulated here, and acknowledging with hearty gratitude the kindness which has always been extended to me by my many friends and by my business and social acquaintances and associates, I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, both real and personal, for the erection, creation, maintenance and endowment of a free public library to be called "The John Crerar Library," and to be located in the City of Chicago, Illinois, a preference being given to the South Division of the city, in as much as the Newberry library will be located in the North Division. I direct that my executors and trustees cause an act of incorporation under the laws of Illinois, to be procured to carry out the purposes of this bequest, and I request that Norman Williams be made the first President thereof, and that in addition to my executors and trustees the following named friends of mine will act as the first Board of Directors in such corporation and aid

and assist my executors and trustees therein, namely; Marshall Field, E. W. Blatchford, T. B. Blackstone, Robert T. Lincoln, Henry W. Bishop, Edward G. Mason, Albert Keep, Edson Keith, Simon J. McPherson, John M. Clark and George A. Armour or their survivors. I desire the building to be tasteful, substantial and fireproof, and that a sufficient fund be reserved over and above the cost of its construction to provide, maintain and support a library for all time. I desire the books and periodicals selected with a view to create and sustain a healthy moral and Christian sentiment in the community, and that all nastiness and immorality be excluded. I do not mean by this that there shall not be anything but hymn books and sermons, but I mean that dirty French novels and all skeptical trash and works of questionable moral tone shall never be found in this Library.

I want its atmosphere that of Christian refinement and its aim and object the building up of character, and I rest content that the friends I have named will carry out my wishes in these particulars.

The will was admitted to probate November 14, 1889, and eventually contested by a group of alleged collateral heirs, but without success. The Illinois Supreme Court declared in favor of the Executors, who proceeded to distribute \$662,000 to individual legatees and \$985,000 to charitable institutions. The balance of the estate, valued at about \$2,576,000, yielding at the time (1894) an annual income of nearly \$99,000 then was available for the establishment of a free public library.

The executors were Norman Williams and Huntington W. Jackson, well known and respected persons accustomed to deal with legal and public affairs. Mr. Williams was designated by Mr. Crerar as the first President of the Library. On November 23, 1894 they addressed a communication to the Board of Directors of the Library, re-

capitulating previous events and forecasting further action.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Public Library had been flourishing since 1873, and the free and public, privately endowed Newberry Library similarly had developed since 1888, the latter being devoted mainly to the literature of the Humanities in their broader significance. The Chicago Public Library had been created as early as 1872 under the Illinois Library Act. The permanent building of the Newberry, as we know it, was finished late in the year 1893. The Directors of the Public Library, the Newberry, and The John Crerar Library very soon began to consider balancing and coordinating the respective functions of the three institutions.

During the year 1894 and later, conferences were held by representatives of the respective Boards and the librarians. In 1895 the three librarians, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Cheney and Mr. Hild, submitted the following plan of division:

*Public Library.* All wholesomely entertaining and generally instructive books, especially such as are desired by the citizens for general home use. Also, collections of newspapers, patents, government documents, books for the blind, and in architecture and the decorative arts.

*Newberry Library.* Literature, Language, History, Sociology, Philosophy, Religion, Fine Arts in part, Medicine.

*The John Crerar Library.* Philosophy, the Physical and Natural Sciences; the Useful Arts (Technology); the Fine Arts in part; Sociology and Economics.

But we anticipate.

The Crerar Directors, as early as October 20, 1890, had addressed a communication to the Trustees of the Newberry Estate, inviting a conference with a view to securing better and more favorable legislation than thus far would safeguard the organization and maintenance of privately

endowed libraries. Joint conferences of the respective trustees were held, and the result was the preparation and passage of "*An Act to encourage and promote the establishment of free public libraries in cities, villages and towns of this State.*" In force July, 1891.

The John Crerar Library was incorporated on October 12, 1894, under the above mentioned special act. The first meeting of the Directors took place at the residence of Mr. Marshall Field on November 23. At that meeting the executors of Mr. Crerar's will announced to the Library's Directors their readiness to proceed placing the Directors in position to take action in line with their functions. Consequently, the first regular meeting of the Board was held on January 12, 1895, "at which," says Mr. Williams, "a complete organization was effected."

The trustees' conferences, official and personal, were extended to the consideration of future mutual relations between the two new libraries and those already in existence in our city. Very soon these considerations were reflected in the public press and among interested members of the public, librarians and educators. During these debates a census was taken and a tentative survey made, resulting in the following list of some of the more important libraries then active in Chicago. It is interesting by the historical perspective it affords:

Armour Institute Library.

Reference: chiefly mechanical and electrical engineering. Not long established.

Board of Education Library.

General reference for study.  
17,000 volumes.

Chicago Athenaeum Library.

General reference and history. 1,200 volumes.

Chicago Branch of Tract Society

General and Religion.

Chicago Historical Society.	Chiefly local history, 10,000 vols., many pamphlets.
Chicago Public Library.	General; specialties: Periodical literature, patent reports, history and biography, drama, fine arts, political science, genealogy and foreign literature. 200,000 vols.
Chicago Law Institute.	Law. 25,000 vols.
Chicago Theosophical Society.	Chiefly: Occult sciences.
Chicago University Library.	Special Theological library of 40,000 vols. Most complete in Biblical literature, church history, homiletics and systematic theology; also large collections in political economy, sociology, history and ancient classics.
Chicago Union League Club Library.	Americana and General. 3,000 vols.
Cobb's Library.	General circulating; popular literature.
Germania Männerchor Library.	German-American literature.
Hammond Library.	General Theological collection. 14,000 vols.
Manual Training School Library.	Technical (Mechanical sciences). 500 vols.

Newberry Library.	Reference. Excels in music, medicine, religion (church history, church fathers, hymnology), American history, Bibliography, Incunabula.
Presbyterian Theological Seminary Library.	General Theology for students. 10,000 vols.
Ravenswood Public Library.	General. Small.
St. Ignatius College Library.	General and reference. 17,000 vols.
Seminary of the Sacred Heart Library.	General. 6,000 vols.
Sodality Library.	General. Small.
Young Ladies' Sodality Library.	General. Small.
Union Catholic Library.	General. Small.
Western Church Union Library.	General and religious. Small.
Wheeler Theological Library.	Theology for students. Small.
Young Men's Christian Assn. Library.	General and religious. 2,500 vols.
Young Men's Library (Colored).	General. Small.

The analysis of these libraries, continues the report,

"indicates that no concert of action has been taken by the different libraries as to the field which each shall occupy. Hence there exists no plan to prevent duplica-

tion of books. Very few of these libraries are supplied with funds sufficient to render any one library complete, and no one can be considered unique in any one department. In the Newberry, there are a few departments, such as Music, Medicine and American History, excelling any of their kind in the city. The Law Library also excels any other library in Law. The Historical Society has a most interesting field. The Library of the Chicago University embraces chiefly works on Theology, Political Economy and the Classics.

The fact plainly appears, however, that the Chicago Public Library is the great circulating library, and that the Newberry excels all others as a reference library.

The Chicago Public Library, containing two hundred thousand volumes and maintained by direct taxation, bids fair to be one of the most extensive circulating libraries in the United States. Already more books are borrowed from this library than from any other one in the country. It has thirty-one delivery stations, the effect of which is to make thirty-one circulating libraries in the city. Eight of these are in the North Division, eleven in the South, and twelve in the West, extending as far north as Rogers Park and Ravenswood, and south to South Chicago and Englewood, and west to Lawndale.

There are already six branch reading-rooms provided with periodicals, encyclopedias and other books, distributed in the three divisions of the city, with an aggregate attendance for the past year of 221,943. Each of these delivery stations is a circulating library, and the time is not distant, we think, when all the volumes called for in each of the delivery stations will be transmitted from the general library building by pneumatic power. A delivery station is already established in the University of Chicago, and no reason exists why one can not also be created in The John Crerar Library, thus giving it all the advantages of a circulating library. In the judgment of the Trustees, a library for the circulation or

borrowing of books, in addition to the present Public Library, is not required in Chicago. The resources of the Public Library, and its scheme of existence are such that to attempt in any way to parallel its work would almost render fruitless to its beneficiaries the generous gift of Mr. Crerar."

And then follows the plan, unobtrusively indicated, but not conclusive:

The Trustees are therefore disposed to recommend to the Directors that The John Crerar Library should be a reference library, embracing such departments as are not fully occupied by any other existing library in Chicago, and that the number of departments created be limited to such as the funds for the use of the library can render complete and unique, each of its kind.

The report concludes as follows:

Without further elaborating or dwelling upon the question, we think sufficient has been presented at this time to demonstrate the magnitude of the work about to be inaugurated, and the necessity of the principal libraries of the city co-operating upon some well considered and harmonious plan.

In closing, we would respectfully suggest that, after a full interchange of opinion, a committee of five be appointed to further consider the questions as to the nature and character of The John Crerar Library, and to report its conclusions and recommendations at an adjourned meeting of the board.

## ELECTION OF THE LIBRARIAN



The Directors, jointly by official inquiry or individually by consulting friends in the course of their journeys, surveyed thoroughly the field of available possibilities, in select-

ing promising candidates for the librarianship. While a special committee (Mr. Jackson, Mr. Blatchford and Mr. Keith) was charged with these inquiries, other members of the Board supplemented their efforts. They corresponded with such authorities as Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University, James B. Angell, President of the University of Michigan, and General Francis Watkins, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Watkins recommended strongly Dr. John Shaw Billings, who indeed proved himself one of the foremost organizers and administrators in wide fields of library activities. Other men of note, such as Professors E. S. Dana and T. R. Lounsbury, of Yale University, George W. Harris, then at Cornell, Daniel C. Gilman, President of Johns Hopkins University, and Herbert Putnam, at that time Librarian of the Boston Public Library, were invited to lend their counsel and did so, likewise Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the veteran Librarian of Congress.

Some of the opinions of these men have distinct interest and deserve to be revived from the archives.

*JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY*

Baltimore

Feb. 26, 1895

MY DEAR SIRS:

I wish I could aid you in finding a man for that responsible position; but I can think of no one, at the moment, whom I should like to recommend. You probably require acquaintance with the technicalities of library administration and this qualification Mr. Charles Evans of the Newberry Library, possesses in a high degree. But if I were to choose a librarian I should prefer a man of broad views, varied acquisitions, a hearty sympathy with popular education; and having chosen him, I should supplement his service with those of one or more library experts. Unless he is too old to

bear transplanting. Dr. Grees of Worcester has most of the qualifications which are requisite; and I think highly of Mr. Wm. E. Foster, of the Public Library, in Providence.

Yours Respectfully,  
Messrs. Jackson (Signed) *D. C. Gilman.*  
Blatchford and  
Keith.  
Committee.

It undoubtedly would have given satisfaction to Dr. Charles Evans, who later became one of our greatest national bibliographers, to know that his name had been advanced in this way. As for Mr. Foster, his memory remains green not only in Providence but among all that cherish the ideal of true and noble service.

#### *LIBRARY OF CONGRESS*

Washington, Feby 25, 1895

GENTLEMEN:

Replying to your inquiry of 23d I regret to say that at present I have no knowledge of any gentleman who unites the rare qualifications of a systematic and comprehensive knowledge of scientific and general literature, united to practical executive ability, and experience in Library management.

My range of acquaintance with the skilled men of the profession is limited by my very engrossing official duties to comparatively few. I suggest that Mr. Melvil Dewey, President of the American Library Association, or Prof. Winsor of Harvard would have far wider knowledge of men worthy of consideration than myself.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) *A. R. Spofford*

Messrs. Jackson, Librarian of Congress.  
Blatchford and Keith  
Trustees of the Crerar Library.

The reply of Dr. Herbert Putnam has a double value. It voices fundamental principles of library organization still deeply significant, and vindicates the requisite qualifications for librarianship, giving due consideration to special qualities but referring them to their proper rank and place. In some ways these principles apply to many other fields of service, such as medicine, the fine arts, teaching, or navigation. Specialization, excellent in itself and as far as it goes, should not supersede a comprehensive view of the whole field. In other words, a librarian may lean upon a specialist, but a specialist cannot *a priori* take a librarian's place.

From the  
*Public Library*  
*of the City of Boston.*

E. W. Blatchford, Esq.,  
375 LaSalle Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

February 26, 1895

MY DEAR MR. BLATCHFORD —

I have your note of the 23rd and at the same time the inquiry from the Committee. As I have written to the Committee, no man occurs to me off-hand as precisely the man for the place. I gather that you have started with the idea that the Librarian must himself be versed in some branch of science, theoretical or applied. I say "some branch of science" rather than in science generally, because the sciences and the arts are so differentiated now-a-days that a man who attempts them at all must necessarily devote himself to some very special branch or department of them.

This suggests what would seem to me the great difficulty of your search. The scientific training of today tends to produce not a man having a "knowledge in the lines of science" but a man having a knowledge in one particular line of science, in other words, a specialist.

Now such a specialist, even though as an individual

he possesses "a high order of executive ability and a thorough familiarity with the duties of Librarian" (though his training would not be apt to have demonstrated the one nor to have secured to him the other) such a specialist would be apt to make a poor Librarian. He would be apt to have a sympathy with one department of science so inordinate as to preclude a sympathy for all tolerance he might have. But in a Librarian tolerance is not enough. There must be an *active* sympathy. And as you are well aware the absorbing pursuit of one branch of science almost invariably results in indifference to and even in contempt for the ideals of other branches of science.

It would seem impertinent in me when the Committee fixes the qualifications, and requests me merely to suggest a name, it would seem impertinent in me to respond by suggesting a revision of the qualifications.

To yourself, however, who have addressed me personally in the matter, I may perhaps urge that the primary requisite in your Librarian is that he *be* a Librarian. If he have a *taste* for science so much the better. But an exact or special training in any one department of science should be deemed to unbalance him for this purpose.

You see I assume that the Crerar will itself be no overspecialized Library, but broadly developed along varying lines which still shall keep within the domain of pure and applied science. Now, if the head of such an institution be a Librarian in the modern sense, he will know how and where to buy the special knowledge which is needed to build up the several departments and then to make them serviceable; and he will know how and where to get a great deal of such special knowledge for nothing. It is not difficult to conduct such a Library when on every hand the specialists themselves are ready and anxious to advise and assist. It requires no special scientific knowledge to administer such a Library; for

how to give a book its maximum of effectiveness is more or less the same problem, whether applied to a biography or a treatise on hydraulic engineering.

These two things, therefore:— to utilize the energy that is available for the selection of the books, and to provide that the books when bought shall do the greatest good, are the proper functions of a Librarian.

So I venture to suggest to you that in my opinion the essential thing is to get a man of executive ability and thorough familiarity with the duties of Librarian, even though he be entirely lacking in the "lines of science." I should, perhaps, end this suggestion by indicating that if you should be satisfied that this other were the type to be set up, I had in mind exactly the man for you. Unhappily I have not. I have had no thought of any particular man, but have been interested simply in considering the general principles which should apply in making your selection.

Your problem is one that as a whole interests me strongly. This detail of it which you are so wisely attempting to deal with at once, interests me correspondingly.

I should feel the utmost satisfaction in any aid I might give to you towards its solution.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) *Herbert Putnam,*  
Librarian.

Justin Winsor, replying to the Committee's inquiry by a long autograph letter, meanwhile mentioned the name of Clement Walker Andrews, then Librarian and Instructor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and had made inquiry about him of President Watkins, of the Institute. Watkins replied on February 26, 1895, in unreserved praise of Andrews and unselfishly advancing his name. This met with immediate interest from the Crerar Directors, as they

had little time to lose in placing their well considered plans in capable hands, for action.

*MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY*

To the

Boston, February 25, 1895

Trustees of the Crerar Public Library,  
1610 Title and Trust Building,  
100 Washington St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

GENTLEMEN:

Your letter of the 23rd inst is received. In reply I would say that there is one man in the country who above all others has qualifications for the position you indicate; but I do not suppose you could command his services, as I understand he is about concluding definite arrangements, upon retiring from the regular army. The man I refer to is Dr. John S. Billings, of the United States Army, who has been for a long period the Librarian of the Medical and Surgical Museum, and is easily the best medical bibliographer in the world. He is, moreover, one of our best men of science; one of the most useful men living — practical, sensible, popular. To have such a man as Billings at the head of any great public library would command at once success in the very highest degree. I assume, however, that he is out of the question.

I have no other suggestion to make regarding the matter of your enquiry unless it be to mention the name of our own librarian, Mr. Clement W. Andrews, who has been for many years in charge of the very extensive scientific and technical collections of the Institute, who is an active member of the Library Association and a student of library methods; who is, himself, a man of scientific standing and has, I dare say, a better knowledge of scientific literature than any other man in the

country, having handled our large collections through so long a time. Mr. Andrews is a man of excellent address, of good executive quality, and in every way reliable and trustworthy. I have no recommendations to offer, but would suggest the name. I should be exceedingly sorry to have you take him, for I do not know where I should turn to get so good a man, but I never grudge any one his promotion, and Mr. Andrews is fully entitled to this mention from me.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) *Francis A. Watkins*

Huntington W. Jackson,  
E. W. Blatchford,  
Edson Keith.

*MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY*

Boston, February 26, 1895

MY DEAR MR. WINSOR:

Your letter of yesterday is received.

Mr. Andrews has a great many qualifications for the position which I take it you have in view, namely, that of the Crerar Library of Chicago.

1. He is a thoroughly well-trained scientific man. After taking his A.M. at Harvard, he was for 6 or 8 years one of our instructors in Chemistry; and still gives a short course on optical analysis, being as I suppose, the best polariscopist in the country.

2. He has an exceptionally large knowledge of scientific literature. It may be known to you that the Institute collections of scientific journals and periodicals are exceptionally and indeed extraordinarily large. Even in the depths of our poverty twenty-years ago our lists of reviews, journals, etc., from all parts of the world were unique, in their extent and variety. We have,

also, very large collections of works and treatises in all departments of science. With both the periodical and the standard literature of science, in all departments, Mr. Andrews has become very familiar, through his duties as Librarian of the Institute, extending now over many years. Certainly there is no one of our professors who approaches him in his knowledge of such literature.

3. Mr. Andrews has shown, in keeping up and carrying on the twelve or thirteen distinct libraries which we maintain at the Institute, a good sense of proportion, and excellent tact in dealing with the demands of the several departments concerned. This last is a matter of no small moment to us, because, as can easily be seen, each department urging its own claims has to be treated at once with courtesy, with firmness and with good judgment. Mr. Andrews' relations to his library assistants and with all the professors and instructors of the school have uniformly been harmonious and agreeable. He is respected and liked by all.

4. Mr. Andrews, in addition to his local duties here, has been a careful student of library science and has taken some part, I know not how much, in the proceedings of the Library Association.

5. Mr. Andrews has been for several years the secretary of our Society of Arts; and in that connection has had to deal with members and committees of the Society, with lecturers and speakers from within and from without, with the president and with casual audiences. He is thoroughly presentable and gentlemanly in bearing and with more than usual ability "to get along with" people in general. I may add, in this connection, that Mr. Andrews has from the first been acting as the Editor of the *Technology Quarterly* and *Journal of the Society of Arts*.

6. Mr. Andrews is one of the most laborious, industrious and faithful of men. I am often ashamed as I leave the school after dark, to see him still at work,

doing drudgery which, were we better off, would be done by assistants.

7. So far as I know there is absolutely no "out" in Mr. Andrews' case. While I do not say that he is a great man, there is certainly no feeling of inadequacy in dealing with him, while in all the respects I have indicated above he has large and positive merit. I am much disposed to think that, in a larger place and under more trying conditions, he would hold his own handsomely.

I do not wish to part with Mr. Andrews. Indeed, I cannot at this writing think how I should replace him. He has been most useful and loyal. But it has been a settled principle of my life never to grudge any man his promotion; and, if the time has come for Mr. Andrews to "go up higher," I shall do the best I can to fill his place. I do not, however, know of any one with whom I could hope to make good his loss, for a long time at least.

I had a letter a few days ago from the trustees of the Crerar Library; and in my reply mentioned Mr. Andrews as one who might properly be considered in that connection, but without going at all into details.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) *Francis A. Watkins*

The Committee took action without delay:

Chicago, March 7th, 1895

Norman Williams, Esq.,  
President of The John Crerar Library,  
1007 Tacoma Bldg.,  
Chicago,

DEAR SIR:—

The Committee on Administration, to which was referred the question of recommending a Librarian, having given the matter careful consideration, is prepared

to make a preliminary report, and therefore request that a meeting of the Executive Committee to hear said report be called for Saturday March 9th, 1895, at 1:30 P.M., at the Chicago Club.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) *Huntington W. Jackson*  
*E. W. Blatchford*  
*Edson Keith*

The Committee reported in favor of Andrews, and Mr. Norman Williams very soon after went to Boston for a conference with both Watkins and Andrews. The latter ever afterwards quoted the example of his former chief and referred to his example in giving proper and unstinted aid to the members of his staff in advancing their professional prospects. Like Dr. Putnam, he also held that librarians are as of one family, regardless of location; united by common work and interests, to which most individual preferences should be reasonably subservient.

*MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY*

Boston, March 20, 1895

Norman Williams, Esq.,  
Prest. John Crerar Library

DEAR SIR:

After careful consideration and consultation with the Corporation and my family I have decided if chosen librarian of the Crerar Library to accept the position.

I should do so with some realization of its responsibilities and opportunities and full appreciation of the honor conferred.

If you consider it necessary, I will start for Chicago as soon as I hear from you. I should much prefer, however, to postpone the visit until week after next, as the

head of the Chemical Department is very desirous that I should finish my class work at once. The men are Seniors and therefore need all the uninterrupted time obtainable for their theses.

Thanking you and the other members of the Committee for the compliment you have paid me in making me your first choice, I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) *Clement W. Andrews.*

The Board, in its turn, as the dates indicate, took very prompt action.

*SOCIETY OF ARTS  
of the  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Boston, March 21, 1895

Mr. Norman Williams,  
Prest. John Crerar Library

DEAR SIR:

Your telegram of today has been received and in reply I send the following sketch of my life since graduation:— Graduating at Harvard in 1879, I was for two years assistant in Organic Chemistry under Professor H. B. Hill, and received the degree of A.M. in 1880. Not being able to complete my study for the degree of Ph.D., I entered the laboratory of Carter, Densmore & Co., manufacturers of Carter's Ink, as assistant, and stayed two years with them. Coming to the Institute in 1883, as Assistant in Organic Chemistry, and was appointed Instructor the next year, placed in charge of the Third Year course in Theoretical Chemistry in 1886, and in 1891-2 had full charge of the laboratory work in Organic Chemistry. Since that time, however, the demands of the library work increasing constantly, my

teaching has been confined to a short course of about four weeks in Optical Analysis, with the title of Instructor in Optical Analysis. The Chemical Department of the Institute has always given its students some bibliographical training, and it was largely through this that I became interested in library work. Having been placed in charge of the Chemical Library in 1885, and prepared for its use a Ms. list of the periodicals on all the departments. This was revised and printed in 1887, and a second edition, practically a new compilation, printed in 1893.

In 1888 the Corporation asked me to prepare a card catalogue of all the books in the Institute, but allowed me to postpone the work in order to accept an appointment from the U. S. Treasury as adviser to a commission on the commercial valuation of sugar at the ports of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.

In 1889 the Corporation appointed me Librarian of the Institute, which office I now hold.

Since 1892 I have edited the "Technology Quarterly and Proceedings of the Society of Arts," containing the papers read before the Society, and the results of the investigations carried on at the Institute, and have acted also as the Secretary of the Society, which is the older though by far the less important branch of the Institute.

I have published three papers on subjects in organic chemistry with Professor Hill and Norton, two independently on the optical analysis of sugar and one on "Technical Collections in Public Libraries."

I joined the American Library Association in 1890, and have attended three, all that I could, of their meetings.

Hoping that I have not been too prolix, nor omitted any points which you wished mentioned, I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) *Clement W. Andrews.*

The Directors took prompt action on this letter. On March 22 they elected C. W. Andrews to the librarianship.

## THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE



To resume: On January 12, 1895, the first regular meeting of the Board had been held and, as already mentioned, a complete organization effected.

The first officers were:

<i>Norman Williams</i>	<i>Henry W. Bishop</i>
<i>Huntington W. Jackson</i>	<i>Edward G. Mason</i>
<i>Marshall Field</i>	<i>Albert Keep</i>
<i>E. W. Blatchford</i>	<i>Simon J. McPherson</i>
<i>T. B. Blackstone</i>	<i>John M. Clark</i>
<i>Robert T. Lincoln</i>	<i>George A. Armour</i>

A treasurer was elected in the person of William J. Louderback, who continued in this office until his death in 1926.

The affairs of the Library were grouped and allotted to the care of four standing committees: Administration; Finance; Buildings and Grounds; Books.

In a preliminary way the scope of the Library was determined thus:

A free reference library and a library of science, containing books which may be classed under the head of popular science, practical science, and applied science, and, at the outset, supplied with a collection of reference books essential to all libraries, such as encyclopaedias, dictionaries, atlases, charts, bibliographical works, catalogues, histories, and the English classics, and that there be departments of social science, architecture, civil and mechanical engineering, and astronomy. The policy of the library is to limit the number of departments to such as can be fully supplied and maintained by the resources of the corporation.

This definition gradually became both extended and simplified as plans were discussed publicly in the local and the library press all over the country, and the Directors received numerous letters of advice, demonstrating the general interest in the projected library. They also had a number of applications for positions to be filled, some from literary persons and ministers, others from scientists and functioning librarians, and one at least from a serious-minded local janitor.

But the opinions and ideas resulting from the inquiries of the temporary Committee of Five deserve special consideration.

The Committee of five Crerar directors (Mr. Williams, Mr. Edward G. Mason, Dr. McPherson, Mr. T. B. Blackstone, Col. Jackson) in 1894 had proceeded to approach a number of interested persons with requests for opinions on the needs of our community in regard to library facilities. Numerous answers were received, some of them very useful. Thus, Mr. L. B. Sidway urged the necessity for the inclusion of agriculture in the scope of the prospective library. Mr. Sidway made the point that in the center of our great grain and provision producing district the ease with which land had been acquired had made land holders careless in the use of their properties, and this carelessness was due to the fact that many persons "were in control of land without anything even approaching a practical knowledge of agriculture."

Mr. Charles G. Soule advocated a library devoted entirely to the mechanical arts and the leading industries. Mr. Patton recommended the subject of architecture and popular art. Mr. Edson Keith suggested "a reference library of applied science and industrial arts, with complete departments in electricity, engineering and agriculture." Several advisors expressed themselves in favor of Americana (history, travel and description, literature). Mr. S. W. Burnham eloquently spoke for "a complete library of science in the broad sense of the term," and Mr. Edward C. Towne

ote nineteen pages in favor of an institution akin to the Lowell Institute in Boston or the Royal Institution in London — a research center — a fountain of knowledge — departments of learning — &c. Mr. T. B. Blackstone would make no specific recommendation but had in mind the younger generation and the help it needed in earning its bread and butter.

At the request of Mr. Burnham, and on the suggestion of Dr. Jackson, Professor Henry Crew of Northwestern University, always a friend and patron of our Library, wrote the following excellent letter, and it had deserved weight with the Committee:

*NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY*

Evanston, 12th Dec., 1894.

MY DEAR MR. BURNHAM:

Thinking over our conversation on Thanksgiving day and again last evening, I have written out, as you suggested, a very brief analysis of the possibilities (as they appear to me) open to a library which has for its aim the cultivation of science.

There may be those who think the field narrow, since literature (*belles lettres*), philosophy, ethics, history of nations, etc. are *not* generally included under the head of science. I have, therefore, made a little table of some of the sciences — by no means all — which are being especially cultivated in these times.

When one remembers that each of these branches has a literature of its own, comprising thousands of volumes and costing thousands of dollars, he realizes that the collection of a library of science is no small undertaking, but, indeed, the work of years.

As indicating the *kind* (not amount) of literature especially needed for research work in my own department, I have made the briefest sort of a list of some of the stock things in *Physics*. Prof. White has done the

same for mathematics and Prof. Young for Chemistry. I enclose these. And although they are the "stock things" you will find very few of them in any library in Chicago.

If the Crerar Trustees care to build any such a library on their foundation, there will not be the slightest danger of duplicating either the Newberry or the Public. And University libraries are ruled out by their very nature: for they are bound to cultivate *all* branches of human learning.

Scholars are now crossing the Atlantic every year to consult *departmental libraries* in Europe. Such a library as that contemplated would doubtless attract many to Chicago — provided only they knew that they could find here what they wanted. The Peabody Library has been, in a certain sense, the making of Johns Hopkins University.

The Crerar Trustees by complementing the Newberry and the Public may do as much or more for the various institutions of this city. No other body of men have, within their own hands, so much power to make Chicago, as through the next 30 years, a veritable scientific center as these gentlemen to whom Mr. Crerar has entrusted this foundation.

At least, so I feel in the matter.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) *Henry Crew.*

Mr. Edward G. Mason briefly recommended "a library of science and industrial art," mentioning several important departments, including railways, and pointing out the desirability of approximate completeness in chosen fields. Dr. T. J. J. See (University of Chicago) indicated the necessity for full sets of all publications of learned societies and of periodicals and mentioned also original memoirs and research sources within the general domain of the physical and natural sciences.

A curious but interesting suggestion came from Miss Mary W. Plummer, Librarian of Pratt Institute, who advocated a general library including all subjects but providing planned and guided reading, especially for children and young people, with lectures, study classes, and adequate reference facilities, not so much to support scholarship as for the general public, and free circulation of books, critically selected without fear of influences from publishers or interfering tax-payers, social groups, local forces, or political bias.

Under date of December 8, 1894, Mr. Williams addressed the following very clear and explicit communication to the Committee of Five, recapitulating the consensus of the Directors:

Lakewood, N. J., Dec. 8, 1894

Edward G. Mason, Esq.,  
Sec'y &c

DEAR SIR:—

Your request supersedes my instructions as to mental repose, and compels a few very brief suggestions as to the nature and quality of The John Crerar Library.

First. I favor a financial policy which restricts the use of any money except the annual income, and this policy must remain until not less than nine members, in a regular meeting, repeal or annul it. No other scheme has yet been suggested which secures a permanent library "for all time." The record of similarly endowed libraries in the United States shows embarrassment, for want of a rigid policy of this nature. Moreover, this policy will serve as an educator to many who do not appreciate that the legacy is to be *used* — not expended — and to be perpetuated in order to fulfil the beneficial intent of the testator.

Second. I favor a reference library, created and administered as such, with no attempt to introduce the rein of any of the features of a borrowing library, with spe-

cial departments to be determined, wisely, and by our pecuniary ability to make each department full — for the following reasons.

1. The Library should be a fitting memorial to John Crerar and its standards and aims the highest, in order to carry out the expressed wishes of its founder as to character building. Its atmosphere should be refined and elevating, — created and illustrated by the quality of its contents, as well as by the taste and enduring features of the structure which contains them.

2. Any attempt to establish in Chicago a combination of a reference and circulating library is attended with many technical difficulties of administration at the outset. It would tend also to render the library *ordinary*, not unique in its [holdings of] publications, and deprive us of the experience already valuable and extensive in the work of library administration, — compelling new methods — many experiments — to be devised by ourselves, — and it must always be remembered that mistakes along this line are expensive. It is true that if the people could borrow books, more individuals would be reached by the Library, and this would necessitate the acquirement of so-called popular literature, which very frequently nowadays means entertainment only, not education. With a purely reference library, fewer individuals would use it, but those who sought it, would find books which create a taste for substantial reading and accurate knowledge, — books which teach readers to muse, *to think*, and if we can, we should labor in this direction.

I would therefore set a high standard in the selection of departments of the library and bring the people up to it. It is a greater gain to society to bring one young man or woman in contact with an educating book, than to entertain five hundred with the popular literature of the day. It is a commentary upon reading that in our large circulating libraries the dust of months rests un-

disturbed upon the old English Classics. With time and tact and patience, it is within our power to make our library an education of the people. It is a fact that the habit of reading popular books does not necessarily stimulate higher reading. The presses still pour forth what the popular reader craves. Our Colleges already appreciating this fact, are creating new courses in English literature, to restore healthy reading as well as writing.

3. The most important and the most difficult duty devolving upon the Board is the selection of the departments of a reference library; — and here again, my limitations permit only the merest suggestions where elaborate thought and the perfection of detail are required. And, herein, the poverty of my scientific knowledge and classification is sorely felt. In finance, the questions were familiar, for our board is favored with experts. In general library experience and administration, many also have knowledge. The extent and expense of departments necessitates conference and advice with those who have both experience and accurate knowledge, — for it must be remembered, the scheme I favor contemplates complete departments, than which no fuller and richer can be found in this country. An examination, and a careful one, should be made of existing Chicago libraries, to prevent duplication, and if in them only a commencement has been made in the direction of any of our choice, — unless funds exist sufficient to complete such department, — we should arrange to purchase from such library collections already made, if possible. A mere small beginning in any such library should not deter us, even if a purchase cannot be made. We should proceed and plan to erect and complete the department of our choice, and not permit a dog-in-the-manger policy on the part of smaller libraries to defeat the creating of a unique department. Assuming then that we secure the aid of skilled men in ascertaining the extent, expense and space required in each department,

for knowledge now lacked, — I would suggest the field of Architecture, as a grand, dignified and practical one; also that of Civil and Mechanical Engineering — also Electricity, also Chemistry, or some subdivision thereof, and perhaps in the field of Physics, Optics, leading into Photography.

I would ask you to consider what possibilities are involved in each of the specialties, how far reaching they are, and while Art is included as well as Science, develop in your mind the popular and practical features in each, and the extent of their influence, especially upon the young. An elaboration of these possibilities is denied me here, to my regret, — for I think I can demonstrate through them influences for good which will increase year by year and lift men upward in thought and life, and at the same time, point to fields of life, labor and support. It is only necessary to enumerate the many labor schools of the day and the success which follows them, to demonstrate the appetite for knowledge of useful arts and sciences, increasing in the country. Give these advantages to the public and they will be sought for.

In order to render available these departments, a small auditorium should be provided in the library building, and very many small rooms, where students can read and study and classes be organized, and provision should be made for keeping the library open six days and six evenings of the week. Whatever public sentiment may demand, the pronounced views and principles of Mr. Crerar should be observed as to the Sabbath, and the building be closed on that day. Respect for his convictions — which we all know were conscientious — should compel us to adopt this rule, notwithstanding even our personal opinions may not now concur with those of Mr. Crerar, who provided the library and in whose memory it is established and maintained.

Consideration should be given also as to whether

policy dictates, after first ascertaining how many departments our funds justify, that we commence the collection of one department, seeking first to perfect that, or attempt two or more. I do not sympathize with the suggestion that only the newest and latest publications be selected. Such a library would have neither beginning nor end. The student, every student, requires and demands a knowledge of the history of the subject he pursues, and should have at hand the means of investigation from beginnings. Thus much can I now say, — lest weariness set in to reader and writer, — let play your imagination in the fields suggested, and be surprised at the arguments which follow in support of the substantial gains to the public, little conceived of by the superficial thinker on libraries.

As to by-laws, — only sufficient to keep our corporate organization alive and in legal working order. The details must be left until our ideas are more thoroughly developed. The general plan suggested at our last meeting is a good one. My only improvement therein would be that there be no ornamental officers — only those who will work and assume work of others who may fall by the way. For, although I chafe to think I am not with you, at this time, and of the work now to be done, — I am convinced that the work is one not to be accomplished now, but after many weary months of thought, taken up and rolled over many times. *Festina lente*, but not in the sense used when the Newberry had on its shelves, but in an obscure building, over 60,000 of the rarest publications. We must go slow, and well consider every question, — and we can, sustained as we are by a financial policy.

As to building and grounds: I perceive no pressing demand for my opinion thereon, only this, until our departments are determined, our present quarters are adequate, for our main work is principally, office work, and inexpensive. I have however decided opinions hereon.

As to a Librarian. Time is herein afforded for reflection. The want will be, one familiar with technical library work and at the same time, of scientific bent. We need not expect Mr. Winsor. The Library is to make our Winsor. Bethink ourselves of a young man, ambitious in the peculiar line of our work, and disregard our own pets or the pets of others, — the pressure of whose friends we shall soon feel. The tortoise and the hare should be kept in mind.

Complying with your request that all speak, herewith this effort, — not made in strength, although in increasing strength, my first mental effort. I am not now fixed, rigid, in my ideas as expressed, and trust none other will feel wedded to these first written opinions. I know our associates all desire the same results, success, and each has pride enough to cherish the belief that no hasty or illconsidered action will be found in the Crerar Board, and that no pride of opinion will hamper action. We are and always will be harmonious.

Yours truly,

(Signed) *Norman Williams.*

This letter is, we feel convinced, a classic among the documents of administrative art. It deserves full and wide recognition, even after fifty years, as a classic in library literature, quite apart from its influence with the colleagues of the gifted author.



C. W. Andrews, who served actively as Librarian for nearly thirty-four years, was, as we heard, a graduate of Harvard University and a chemist. For some time he had been an instructor, with library duties, in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He caused the accession lists of this institution to be copied as a guide for the Crerar. After his election to the Crerar he visited various libraries

in the East and compiled lists of periodicals to be considered for initial or later purchase. Finally, Mr. Andrews drew up an ideal plan for the routine work, based on the best examples.

Mr. Anderson H. Hopkins, then first assistant librarian of the University of Michigan, was elected Assistant Librarian of the Crerar and assumed his duties on October 1, 1895, and two months later Miss Editha Phelps was engaged as order clerk.

The Librarian, Mr. Hopkins and Miss Phelps took possession of a small office improvised on the premises of the quarters selected by the Directors for occupation by the Library, the sixth floor of the building on the Northwest corner of Wabash Avenue and Washington Street. This space later, for many years, served as a cloak room for the public. Mr. Andrews never demanded elaborate quarters for himself. The new year (1896) saw the library well under way. The temporary quarters took definite shape. They formed a square around a light-court. The East side was given over to a reading room, a lofty, spacious hall finished in oak and decorated in a deep brown tone, equipped with tables and chairs of a quality which renders them still useful, although not in their original location. Wall-cases accommodated a reference collection of about 2000 volumes. At the North end of the room accommodations were built for the current periodicals. About the middle of the West wall there was a delivery desk with an opening into the stacks, which covered the rest of the floor toward the West and around the court, except for two small offices accommodating the Librarian and the Assistant Librarian, and two infinitesimal rooms for the accommodation of the library staff. From the front hall a separate entrance opened into a space later fitted for a business office and a Directors' room, both North of the court.

All improvements bespoke taste and economy. The income from the partly organized assets in 1895 was \$96,000, the expense close to \$10,000. The Directors wisely had

As to a Librarian. Time is herein afforded for reflection. The want will be, one familiar with technical library work and at the same time, of scientific bent. We need not expect Mr. Winsor. The Library is to make our Winsor. Bethink ourselves of a young man, ambitious in the peculiar line of our work, and disregard our own pets or the pets of others, — the pressure of whose friends we shall soon feel. The tortoise and the hare should be kept in mind.

Complying with your request that all speak, herewith this effort, — not made in strength, although in increasing strength, my first mental effort. I am not now fixed, rigid, in my ideas as expressed, and trust none other will feel wedded to these first written opinions. I know our associates all desire the same results, success, and each has pride enough to cherish the belief that no hasty or illconsidered action will be found in the Crerar Board, and that no pride of opinion will hamper action. We are and always will be harmonious.

Yours truly,

(Signed) *Norman Williams.*

This letter is, we feel convinced, a classic among the documents of administrative art. It deserves full and wide recognition, even after fifty years, as a classic in library literature, quite apart from its influence with the colleagues of the gifted author.



C. W. Andrews, who served actively as Librarian for nearly thirty-four years, was, as we heard, a graduate of Harvard University and a chemist. For some time he had been an instructor, with library duties, in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He caused the accession lists of this institution to be copied as a guide for the Crerar. After his election to the Crerar he visited various libraries

the East and compiled lists of periodicals to be considered for initial or later purchase. Finally, Mr. Andrews drew up an ideal plan for the routine work, based on the best examples.

Mr. Anderson H. Hopkins, then first assistant librarian of the University of Michigan, was elected Assistant Librarian of the Crerar and assumed his duties on October 1, 1895, and two months later Miss Editha Phelps was engaged as order clerk.

The Librarian, Mr. Hopkins and Miss Phelps took possession of a small office improvised on the premises of the quarters selected by the Directors for occupation by the library, the sixth floor of the building on the Northwest corner of Wabash Avenue and Washington Street. This space later, for many years, served as a cloak room for the public. Mr. Andrews never demanded elaborate quarters for himself. The new year (1896) saw the library well under way. The temporary quarters took definite shape. They formed a square around a light-court. The East side was given over to a reading room, a lofty, spacious hall finished in oak and decorated in a deep brown tone, equipped with tables and chairs of a quality which renders them still useful, although not in their original location. Wall-cases accommodated a reference collection of about 2000 volumes. At the North end of the room accommodations were built for the current periodicals. About the middle of the West wall there was a delivery desk with an opening into theacks, which covered the rest of the floor toward the West end around the court, except for two small offices accommodating the Librarian and the Assistant Librarian, and two infinitesimal rooms for the accommodation of the library staff. From the front hall a separate entrance opened into a space later fitted for a business office and a Directors' room, both North of the court.

All improvements bespoke taste and economy. The income from the partly organized assets in 1895 was \$96,000, the expense close to \$10,000. The Directors wisely had

decided to proceed deliberately and to use only the income from the endowment. The financial status quickly took shape. In 1896 the total cost of operation rose to \$70,000, the total assets (after the complete settlement of the Crerar estate) now figured at \$2,012,000. The John Crerar Library was taking definite form.

The organization of the functions of the Directors provided for a system of standing Committees, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Administration, Books. Each of these committees would report to the Board as a whole at stated meetings. The chairmen of the committees would ventilate matters and problems referred to them. The Treasurer would be responsible to the Committee on Finance; the Librarian, responsible to the Committee on Administration. The government of the Library, delegated by the Board as a whole, rested with a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary. The practice, expressed in definite terms and systematized in proper forms, became codified in 1895, and was expanded in 1897-1898 in a set of by-laws. These, with occasional minor changes and additions, have remained in force since their adoption.

Naturally, the Library's first president was Mr. Norman Williams, with Edward G. Mason a First Vice-President, Marshall Field as second Vice-President, and George A. Armour as Secretary. These gentlemen held office when the Library was opened to the public on April 1, 1897.

The preliminary fundamental activities in 1896, meanwhile, are worthy of detailed consideration, because they typify the foundation of a modern reference library and differ at essential points from those of the then existing Chicago libraries. They also antedate the reorganization of the Library of Congress by Herbert Putnam. Mutually independent, except for a related modern conception of library science and library function, these two institutions, and their librarians, proved devoted to identical ideals of service, and their methods were closely related.

As for the Crerar, when its accession books were opened

in 1896, a number of purchased books and periodicals were on hand, and these were quickly supplemented by the transfer by purchase from the Newberry Library of their departments of Natural Science and Useful Arts. This and other accessions called for an expansion of the staff. Mr. Aksel G. S. Josephson was engaged as Cataloguer, Mr. Hervey White as Reference Librarian. Several assistants joined them, notably Miss Charlotte H. Foye, Miss Sarah S. Dickinson and Miss Lydia A. Dexter.

The routine work of doing justice to books as they came along, and placing them where they were intended to be kept,—these tasks tried the available ingenuity more than would seem reasonable to an outsider. They called for the consideration and determination of many details of administrative and professional practices. First of all came definite rules for cataloguing, forms of entry for accessions, ordering and shelf catalogues; a consideration of the best forms of public and official catalogues, the preparation of library forms, the problem of a purposeful classification, the anticipation of needs and demands of a highly specialized character; the management of a service which was deeply needed in a community where, as one of the Directors once put it, most people are engaged in active and constructive work but are not antiquarians delving in the past but builders in every field, looking toward the future.

The definitive formula for the Library's scope gradually grew more clear. Mr. Andrews finally recorded it briefly as the natural, physical and social sciences and their applications — the useful arts, i.e., technology in all its aspects.

One practical and important result of the cooperation between the two new libraries was the transfer to the Crerar from the Newberry of their holdings of books in the natural sciences and the useful arts. About 8000 volumes, at an estimated value of \$16,000, thus were accessioned by the Crerar. This collection represented a careful selection of reference and research material. The rapidly growing collection of Medicine at the Newberry, while recognized as

pertaining in a way both to the sciences and to the useful arts, did not come to the Crerar until 1906-07.

In this day and age it is hardly possible to comprehend the administrative-technical problems which craved the attention and solution of the young librarian. We of course started to keep accession books (in book form) and an "official" catalogue which recorded the fate of each book within the library. The accession books have been perpetuated till this day, along with the card catalogues.

Cataloguing rules were in force in 1896. Cutter's famous *Rules* took pretty good care of most forms of publications, but forms and their combinations rapidly multiplied, and besides, the cataloguing process desirable for a special library was not always foreseen by Cutter and his contemporaries; new forms would discover themselves continuously, especially in a rapidly growing library of international scope. Mr. Andrews quickly realized that speed in cataloguing was rarely possible if it were to be connected with accuracy and thoroughness, and he admitted it readily.

Moreover, on the Librarian's recommendation, the Directors had decided to offer the public a *printed card catalogue*. This very important and indeed timely and prophetic innovation was announced in the following terms:

This form of catalogue is not only convenient, legible, and easily kept up to date, but the permanence of the printed card compels exceptionally careful work on the part of the cataloguers. It has a very great additional advantage, in that as many copies of a title as are desired can be had for the mere cost of the cards. This enables us to offer to those libraries in the city most interested in our work a complete catalogue of our library; it also enables us to try the interesting experiment of making our catalogue in the triple form of alphabetical author, alphabetical subject, and classed subject, — an arrangement which is unique, so far as I know, and which seems to promise all the advantages obtainable in

the card catalogue. If this is supplemented by a series of properly prepared bulletins, it may safely be said that the library has not failed to supply a reasonable means of access to its treasures.

In this connection it may be well to add that the Committee on Administration have authorized the experimental use of a patent electrotype plate, which, if successful, not only will enable us to publish the bulletin referred to above at a minimum expense or a maximum frequency, but may lead to a great advance in co-operative cataloguing.

The printing office requires a special chapter.

The public catalogue, our most important mechanical device in communicating with our patrons, was planned, as we heard, to consist of three mutually dependent divisions: First, an alphabetical author catalogue; second, a classified catalogue; third, an alphabetical subject catalogue. As a matter of fact, the classified catalogue was designed as the chief agent in disclosing the library's contents. The key to the classified catalogue was the subject catalogue, intended to point to the specific classes desired by the readers. The author catalogue was traditional and indispensable.

But the classified (or classed) catalogue was far from traditional. Most public libraries were devoted to the mixed author and subject catalogue. A catalogue arranged according to the symbols (number combinations) of the Decimal Classification of Melvil Dewey was, in 1896, a decided innovation. Moreover, it might be considered to run quite or almost parallel to the shelf-list, except, of course, for analytical entries derived from books of more than one subject, or aspects of subjects, which, by the topographical arrangements later introduced as the need for them demanded, were numerous. And the writer agrees with Mr. Andrews at this point: The classification of a book, and the application of subject headings, are not matters of scientific research; they are practical routine performances designed

to place books in as close a position as possible with reference to their family or natural group and where they will be found readily and may be replaced with facility. The catalogues afford an opportunity for very close classification, if this is desired, but even a catalogue may object to an attempt at logical or super-precise arrangements. The consideration of the reader, the person searching the shelves or the catalogues, should serve to balance the procedure.

The system of classification adopted in 1896 was not difficult to choose. Only one such system, that of Melvil Dewey (the Decimal Classification) had then been developed, if not fully, at least in sufficient detail to serve adequately. It was chosen for that reason. It was pretty generally used throughout the country, which was another advantage. Its symbols for shelving and classed catalogue arrangement were simple and familiar to many users of libraries. The scheme during the early years was followed as closely as possible and with very slight changes necessitated by the nature of the Library.

The Newberry Library had adopted the Cutter classification, which has some advantages in regard to the historical sciences, philosophy and economics. The Public Library had a broad subject arrangement, which stood it in good stead, and was supported by an excellent dictionary (card) catalogue. It might have been advantageous to all concerned if the three main libraries of Chicago might have been given a uniform classification, and such a possibility indeed was discussed. The Newberry's early catalogues were ingeniously planned and carried out with enormous efforts and skill, but the advantage of the standard-sized card was too obvious.

The Crerar adopted another innovation. Under each class, or division, or sub-division, the books were arranged chronologically instead of alphabetically, when such an arrangement was desirable. It is true that this method separates different editions of books by the same author, but it cannot be denied that for the main subjects of the Crerar

the latest book would be the one most often called for; so the catalogue cards were arranged under such subjects chronologically backwards, the latest titles at the front. On the other hand, in some of the common form divisions (collections, miscellaneous essays, etc.) an alphabetical (by authors) arrangement was preferable. And along with the classed catalogue would be the author catalogue, strictly alphabetical, including individual and corporate (institutions, societies, etc.) entries.

But the classed catalogue was supported by a subject index, or catalogue, containing references by symbols to the classes. The key card entries covering subjects either 1) forming part of a defined class or 2) referring to more than one place in the classed arrangement, were followed by cards representing the pertinent books, so that for a large number of subjects the subject index would answer reference questions without recourse to the classed catalogue.

In this way the reader might approach a problem from three sides: 1) Author and title of book needed; 2) Classed arrangement of his subject; 3) Subject — always indicating the classed catalogue place.

When properly understood, this organization would enable any intelligent reader in occasional instances to emancipate himself from the reference librarian, as far as books in the Library were concerned. For extended studies, or for the search for articles in periodicals or other more remote sources, the reference staff, with the aid of bibliographies, was, of course, available.

Better facilities for literary research never were provided by any library at the outset of its functions, than by the Crerar; and while later modified at minor points, the initial system never yet was threatened by the radical changes overtaking many other libraries. Our collection of bibliographies pertinent to our scope, developed rapidly.

But this is not all. Even the selected orders for books, i.e., prospective purchases, or books expected to be added to the Library at an early date, — these were roughly classified,

and short entries for them were made on sheets in order that readers might be advised of prospective additions to the Library on subjects in which he might be interested. I believe this was Mr. Andrews' special invention, and it worked well for a number of years, but when large masses of accessions began to float in, this index of selected orders necessarily yielded.



In the beginning, and for many years, the Librarian kept his eye upon every essential detail within the Library, and he was master of all such functions. Subsidiary work fell to the share of the Assistant Librarian. He attended to the binding. Mr. Hopkins was a humanist with an eye for artistic effect. Books of permanent value were bound in half Morocco with gilt tops. This made pretty shelf rows of books, but even Haussmann Morocco soon proved inadequate to the effects of steam heat and dust, and we reluctantly fell back upon buckram and cloth. For pamphlets an inexpensive cloth cover was adopted, and Mr. Andrews wrote: "It is hoped that this will allow us to escape the nightmare of librarians, a mass of pamphlets uncatalogued, unclassified and unbound, some of which are known to be and others suspected to be of value, yet utterly useless in that condition." It was not long before pamphlets, whether unbound books of less than 100 pages or separate issues of printed papers, or circulars, drifted in by tens of thousands, but their later disposition belongs in another chapter.

Some initial groups of accessions were mentioned above. The Librarian came to Chicago armed with lists based on M. I. T. and Harvard holdings. His first concern was an adequate reference collection, but no less important was the acquisition of periodicals. The writer recollects how the purchase of periodicals on chemistry and chemical technology, year by year, were checked off his initial list, and during the last year of Mr. Andrews' official function, the last one on this list was purchased. He had had the advice of such

men as Henry Carrington Bolton and Dr. Poole. One of Dr. Poole's many good deeds was to purchase for the Chicago Public Library a complete set of the original Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for many years thereafter the only complete set of the original edition in this region or at least in Chicago.

But complete sets of periodicals always were, and now increasingly are, difficult to obtain. We still are looking for minor completions of some few sets necessarily purchased in 1906 and following years although slightly incomplete. But conditions then, of course, were infinitely more in favor of the purchaser, than now. The Boston Book Company, always efficient and dependable, supplied many sets of periodicals and serials to us at market prices plus 10 per cent in return for a guarantee of completeness in all detail. It is somewhat an Achilles's heel for all libraries to observe and secure complete copies of all holdings; the task of collation requires abundant time and effort.

At the end of 1896 about eleven thousand volumes had been accessioned. Two thousand had been bound or repaired at an average cost of one Dollar per volume, and eight thousand were lettered and prepared for the shelves at a total cost of \$427.

The current periodicals numbered at first 171 (64 by gift), and a further list of 1317 had been selected. Very soon these were ordered, and our first printed list covers these current periodicals. It was dated 1897. The cataloguing of all accessions and the printing of cards for these went forward with all possible speed. In the fall of 1896 a reference librarian was appointed in the person of Mr. Hervey White, and Miss Sarah S. Dickinson entered the service as senior assistant, Miss Margaret Furness, Miss Charlotte H. Foye and Miss Mary A. Horne as Juniors. Including attendants and pages the staff numbered 22 persons in 1897, when the Library opened its doors.

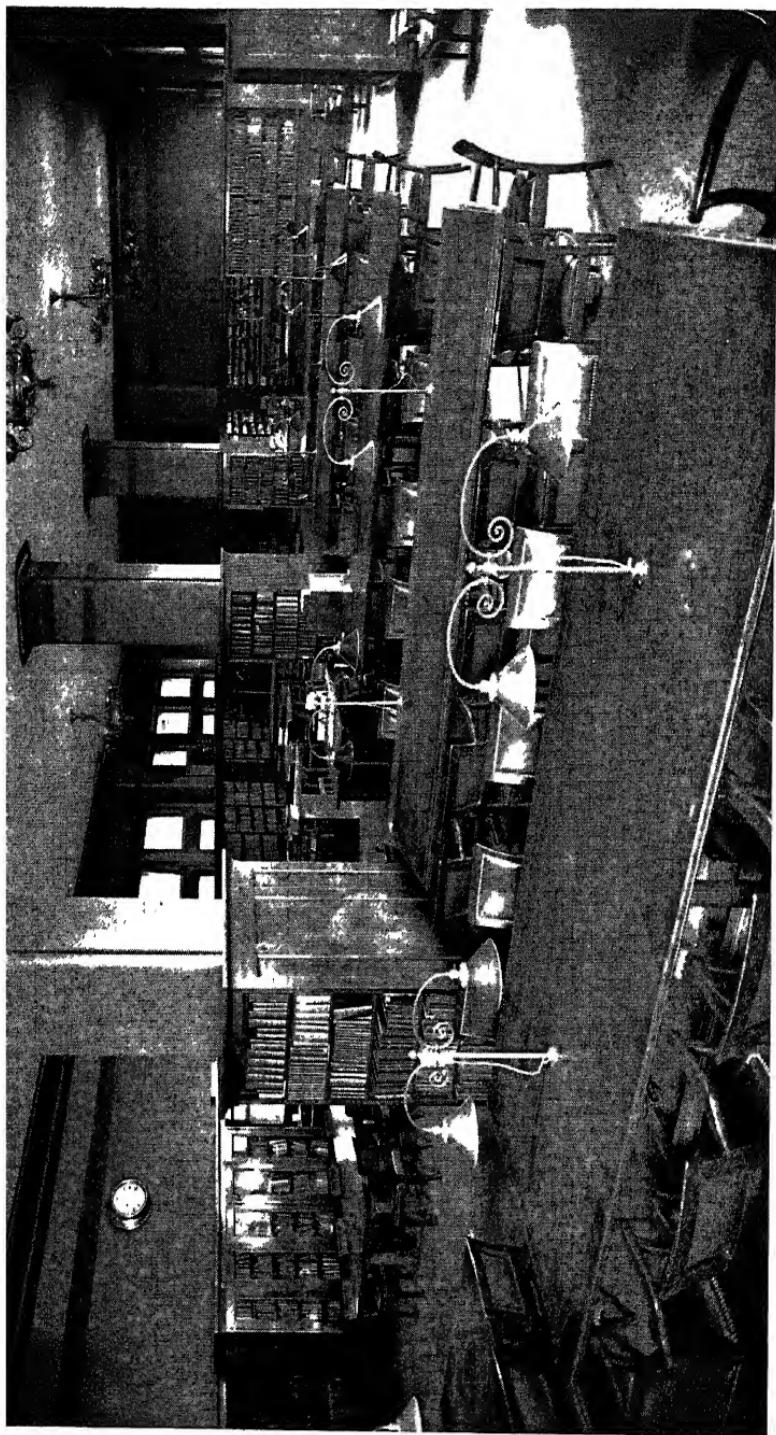
It was under the very most promising auspices that the John Crerar Library began its service as a free public insti-

tution. Announcements were issued in March, 1897, for the opening on April the first. The newspapers took a friendly interest. The following formal invitation was distributed:

The Board of Directors has the honor to announce the opening of The John Crerar Library, in its temporary quarters on the sixth floor of the Marshall Field & Company Building, 87 Wabash Avenue, Thursday, April 1, 1897. During the first three days, from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m., all the rooms will be open to the public for inspection, and the Librarian, with his staff, will take pleasure in showing visitors the Library. Thereafter, until further notice, the Library will be open to readers every day, excepting Sundays and legal holidays, from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. Attention is respectfully called to the accompanying circular, which will explain, in outline, the organization, scope and plan of the Library.

Chicago, March, 1897.





GENERAL READING ROOM, Wabash Avenue, 1918

In accordance with the wishes of the Directors there were no formalities connected with the opening. On April 1-3 a daily average of 549 callers were welcomed, thereupon the attendance settled down to a steady influx of students and readers.

Some of these users of the Crerar in its early days will recollect with pleasure the really imposing reading room with its dark oak panels and tables, the comfortable chairs, many of which still serve readers after a half-century, the alcove close to the entrance which accommodated for more than twenty years a rapidly growing array of current periodicals, and the tiny cloak room in the hall which had done duty as a general office during the two years of preliminary activity. Then, directly beyond the Southwest corner of the reading room was the Librarian's office, about 10 x 12 feet, with a plain desk and chair, an enormous waste-box and two visitors' chairs, the occasional occupants of which would best not spread themselves. Across from this the delivery desk, and behind this, running West, the book stacks, separated by occasional alcoves for the accommodation of the staff. Truth compels us to admit that the working space had poor light and ventilation. Every corner soon became crowded. But the main consideration necessarily was the public. The Librarian asked no better comfort for himself than he extended to his staff. Several of the earliest appointees remained for many years. The permanent building, planned by the Directors and hoped for by everybody else concerned, was in the background of all dispositions and hopes. So the accommodations for the Librarian and his staff remained quite primitive until we at length moved into our permanent building. When visitors remarked about them Mr. Andrews would point out how, at Harvard, he had done his experimental work on the synthesis of inks in a small space under a stairway in the old Chemistry building and was content with a desk and a chair in any kind of locality. Abundant comforts were not expected or generously dispensed in those early days. Salaries were correspondingly

restricted. Everybody concerned understood that while our beginnings looked modest, the Directors considered them merely preliminary to a larger development, a permanent building, adequate dispositions. The Library from its very inception carried a remarkable prestige, a felicitous promise, which was evident from public reference made to it as well as from the profusion of applications for the librarianship and for subordinate positions, coming from all parts of the country — and by the influx of readers.

### III

## *The Directors*



The officers named in Mr. Crerar's will may be said to have shaped a development and created a tradition which marks the institution until this day. It would have been difficult to assemble a more distinctive group of persons representative of the qualities called into action by John Crerar. Each one had organized successfully commercial or other economic, or professional, forces. Time was ripe for their efforts, but time alone creates no opportunity. Opportunity comes with meeting intelligently and with circumspection the demands of voiced necessity.

The authority under which the Library functioned and continued to function is the Act of 1891. The by-laws adopted by the Board in 1896 and afterwards modified in only slight detail, defined the duties of the officers and committees and provided for an annual and three quarterly meetings for the transactions of all ordinary business. The ordinary business is reported by the respective chairmen who, during the intervals between meetings, act in conjunction with their committee fellow-members. The Treasurer reports and is governed by the Finance Committee, the Librarian is responsible to the Committee on Administration. Communications made directly to Directors are referred to the respective committees and eventually by these to the Librarian.

Tradition has it that the first serious interpellation ad-

dressed to the Directors, came from a gentleman who deplored the fact that he had asked in vain for the Bible and the works of William Shakespeare. The Librarian had explained that the Bible had not been anticipated as a library book, but this was met with an argument, logical in itself, derived from the wording of Mr. Crerar's will, as regards the creation and sustenance of a healthy moral and Christian sentiment in the community. So a copy of the Bible was made available in the reference collection and even supplemented by a concordance. The latter has had liberal use ever since. The question of Shakespeare passed on to the Newberry, mainly because this poet carries with him a wide range of literature, even unto Shakespeare's relations to science, or natural history. Indeed the work of many poets and authors had developed aspects directly or indirectly connected with the Library's special fields. In the end we wore out at least two copies of the Bible and one of Shakespeare's works — which shows how difficult it is to limit the scope, especially of a reference collection available to the public, when the patrons do not analyze closely the logics of specialization or anticipate border-lines. In time we crossed a number of similar border-lines.

Section 22 of the by-laws provides that "the total bequest . . . shall be set apart as a Permanent Endowment Fund and shall never be impaired or encroached upon." This principle was rigidly adhered to, even when a site was purchased and the permanent building erected. The Finance Committee at the beginning set aside from the annual surplus three especial funds, one for a permanent building, one for books, and a security reserve fund. The Directors only once in our history spent more than the full amount of the annual budgetted allowance, even though the by-laws contain no provision on this point, and although the social and financial disturbances after 1920 gave rise to serious concern and some restrictions — which afterwards proved unnecessary.

Mr. Williams, our first President, born in 1835, did much

to assert and formulate the traditions and practice of the Library's affairs. In this respect, the Directors were of one mind. To this day, not only are the by-laws in force, but many unspoken principles continue to be observed, having been carried down the decennia without codification. However, as early as 1896, Mr. Williams found it necessary to protect his strength by occasional periods of absolute rest. He still presided at the first two meetings in 1899, but passed away on June 19, 1899. As a counselor and man of affairs, he was deeply interested in many aspects of human and social welfare, including the Chicago Public Library. The Norman Williams Public Library, of Woodstock, Vermont, had been founded by the brothers Edward and Norman, Jr., and endowed in honor of their father. Mr. Williams during his active years took a deep interest in electricity, and he secured for Chicago its first telephone.

Our second President, Col. Huntington W. Jackson, served from 1899 to his death in 1901 and left a permanent memorial in a fund, the income of which was devised to support our accessions of books on constitutional law. His successor was Judge Peter Stenger Grosscup, a director since 1897, continuing as President until 1913, when he was succeeded by Mr. Marvin Hughitt. Mr. Hughitt retired from the presidency in 1922 and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas D. Jones.

Mr. Hughitt, as we remember him, a man of extraordinary vitality and great force, who continued as a Director until 1928, had the experience of attending a Board meeting three months before he passed away, at the age of 91.

Of the original Directors, Mr. T. B. Blackstone, Mr. George A. Armour and Dr. S. J. McPherson, resigned in 1899. Mr. Edward G. Mason had retired three years before. Mr. John M. Clark continued his service until 1916, Mr. Edson Keith until his death in 1896; and Mr. Albert Keep passed away in 1907.

Mr. E. W. Blatchford, a member of the Newberry as well as of our Board, remained among us until 1914, a

veteran in public matters, wise and efficient, deeply respected by lay and learned alike.

While Henry W. Bishop remained a Director until his death in 1913, greatly appreciated for his service on the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, the last, but not the least of his colleagues of 1894, Mr. Robert T. Lincoln, remained with us until 1926. It is hardly necessary to state that his name and presence contributed to give to the Library a high degree of dignity, apart from his activity as a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He, like several other Directors, was a frequent user of the Library.

Mr. Marshall Field's never failing impressive presence continued until 1906. He took a deep interest in the welfare of the Library. Ordinarily taciturn and contemplative, he had a way of summing up conclusions briefly and clearly and was, of course, a born member of the Finance Committee.

Among the successors to the first group of Directors would be remembered Dr. Frank S. Johnson, who continued in office until he passed away in 1922, a physician and philanthropist active in many circles.

Mr. Hughitt was succeeded as president, in 1923, by Mr. Thomas D. Jones, a man of noble presence and great dignity, punctilious, deliberate in judgment. He remained a Director for nearly thirty years, from 1900 to his death in 1930, a comfort to the administration and a friendly, thoughtful counselor until the end. In 1929 Mr. Jones, by his own desire, retired from the presidency and was succeeded by Mr. Leonard A. Busby, a Director since 1901. Mr. Busby since the latter date had been either a member of the Committee on Administration or its chairman, or served as Secretary to the Board, and was thoroughly familiar with all the Library's functions, making frequent personal use of our reference service. He was a student of nature and a craftsman of ability. Behind a very direct and sometimes brief approach he possessed a ready sympathy with sincere efforts. Mr. Andrews, the Librarian, had an innocent habit

of describing Mr. Busby as an officer who would best be approached gingerly if at all.

These two, truly great men, Thomas D. Jones and Leonard A. Busby, unfortunately died within less than three weeks of each other, in September, 1930.

Mr. John J. Mitchell became a Director in 1900 and served for a full quarter-century on the Finance Committee as a member or as Chairman. Like Mr. Marshall Field, he was a man of few words but wise in counsel. His sudden death, a catastrophe, moved all Chicago deeply.

From 1905 to 1927 Mr. Robert Forsyth, an engineer and expert on steel, gave notable service on the Committee on Books and on Buildings and Grounds, and as Second Vice President. He was very active in the deliberations on our permanent building. His interest in the Library was asserted by his bequest to us of the residue of his estate after the deduction of some special stipends.

In 1906 Mr. Chauncey Keep accepted a directorship and quite naturally served on the Finance Committee. Mr. Keep is remembered as a trustee of many large interests, gentle but very firm in his convictions. He qualified in many ways as one of the keepers of Chicago's financial conscience and asserted his interest in the Library by a continuous attendance at the Directors' meetings until the last (1929).

Mr. Frederick H. Rawson, having joined the Board in 1908, served with zeal and interest continuously on the Committee on Administration until his resignation in 1928.

To continue the remembrance of Directors deceased or who resigned after various periods of service we come to Professor Rollin D. Salisbury, active on the Committee on Books. The University of Chicago was recognized by his election to the Board as a very close educational neighbor. But Mr. Salisbury unfortunately passed away in 1922. He was succeeded by Professor Henry Gordon Gale, a broad-minded, generous and widely experienced man, who, as a member of our Committee on Books and as Vice President, gave many excellent impulses to our service and was untiring

in his efforts on the Library's behalf until we and the University lost him in 1942.

After the death of Mr. Busby in 1930, Mr. Eugene M. Stevens became President of the Board, having accepted membership in 1928. Mr. Stevens took a very active interest in financial matters and followed the internal work in the Library with sympathy and understanding. He passed away immediately before the annual meeting of the Directors in 1937 and was succeeded as President by Mr. William B. McIlvaine, a Director since 1926, a wise counselor and administrator, for many years a close friend and associate of Mr. Thomas D. Jones, both being Princeton graduates. Mr. McIlvaine's health gradually declined, but he remained on board until shortly before he passed away, in 1943.

To complete the picture, Mr. Sherwood J. Larned, the son of a noted librarian and writer of history, accepted election to our Board in 1928, but resigned on leaving Chicago in 1931.

The relations between the Library and the Field Museum of Natural History were, ever since the beginning of our respective activities, close and sympathetic. The acceptance of a directorship by Mr. Stanley Field, in 1928, therefore was quite natural, and Mr. Field, succeeding Mr. Mitchell as Chairman of the Committee on Finance, gave liberally of his time and experience to our affairs during the difficult period of his service, 1928-1941. Mr. Field's resignation was due to the consideration of his health and his many absorbing duties as President of the Field Museum and other institutions.

General Abel Davis, whose career was as remarkable as his ability in administrative matters, joined the Board in 1928. His death in 1937 prematurely closed a career of great promise.

The Secretaries of the Board were, successively: Mr. George A. Armour, (1895-1898), Mr. Arthur J. Caton, (1899-1903), Mr. Leonard A. Busby, (1904-1913), Mr.

Walter B. Smith, (1914-1942), Mr. Earl Kribben (in War service), Mr. J. F. Dammann (from 1943).

Only three treasurers have held office since the beginning: Mr. William J. Louderback (1895-1926), Mr. Frederick T. Haskell (1926-1929), and Mr. Paul C. Butcher (from 1929).

History obviously is not now called upon to record the qualities and virtues of the Directors at present in active service. Suffice it to say here that they continue the traditions of their predecessors. This has insured for the Library smooth sailing and safety for those who carry on the work from day to day. The Library in these fifty years of its life had but two chief librarians, and it is a good thing, as we consider some of our contemporary institutions, that we had but two. As regards the Board, changing times and conditions affected various dispositions of all the standing committees, especially Finance and Administration, and these changes in policy and management would afford very interesting study and fruitful consideration for librarians' meetings, but even though they are carefully recorded, this history is too recent for our concern at this time. The writer, however, is fully justified in repeating here what he said in his biographical sketch of Mr. Andrews in 1930: Few librarians have had an equal autonomy of initiative and action, than C. W. Andrews; and his successor in office inherited this blessing.

The relations of any board of directors to the institution which it governs has a twofold aspect. The Board views the Library, and from within the Library, the staff views the Board. The community keeps its eye on all. In our case, conscientious and benevolent government on the background of imagination and sympathetic concern — this was met from within the Library with a complete confidence and trust. Like in all similar relations, the public reaps the benefit.

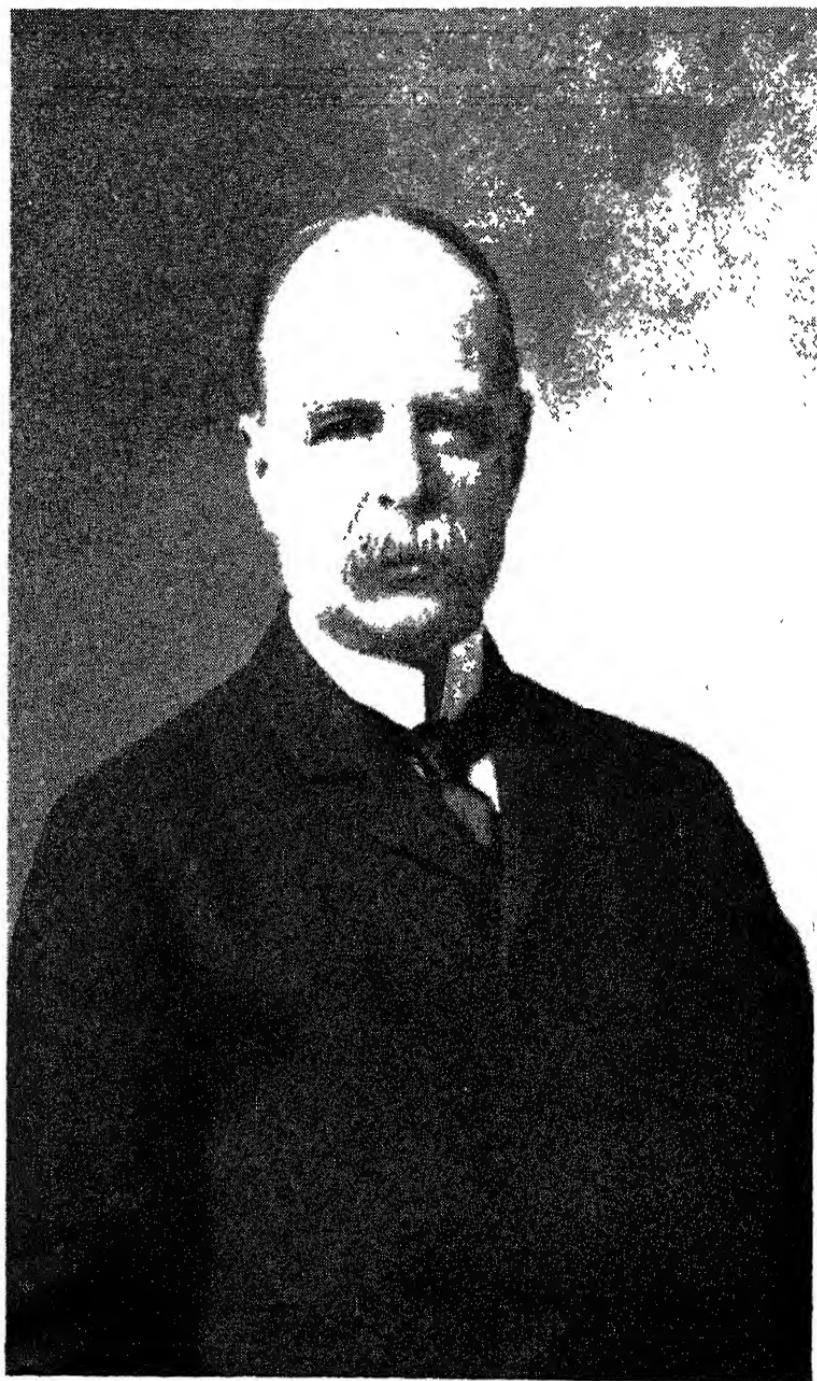
The present Board of Directors consists of the following members:

Col. *Albert A. Sprague*, elected in 1914.  
Mr. *Walter B. Smith*, elected in 1914.  
Mr. *Chauncey B. Borland*, elected in 1916.  
Dr. *Ludvig Hektoen*, elected in 1923.  
Mr. *Britton I. Budd*, elected in 1930.  
Mr. *Theodore W. Robinson*, elected in 1931.  
Col. *John A. Holabird*, elected in 1931.  
Mr. *Edward L. Ryerson*, elected in 1933.  
Mr. *A. B. Dick, Jr.*, elected in 1937.  
Dr. *Arthur H. Compton*, elected in 1939.  
Mr. *Earl Kribben*, elected in 1942.  
Dr. *Harry S. Gradle*, elected in 1943.  
Mr. *J. F. Dammann*, elected in 1943.  
The Hon. the Mayor of Chicago, *Ex officio*.  
The City Comptroller of Chicago, *Ex officio*.

The present officers of the Board are:

Col. *Albert A. Sprague*, President.  
Mr. *Edward L. Ryerson*, First Vice President.  
Mr. *Walter B. Smith*, Second Vice President.  
Mr. *J. F. Dammann*, Secretary.  
Mr. *Paul C. Butcher*, Treasurer.  
Mr. *J. Christian Bay*, Librarian.





NORMAN WILLIAMS

## IV

### *The First President: Norman Williams*

*1835 — 1899*



Norman Williams was born in Montreal, Province of Quebec, on February 1, 1835. Both on his father's and mother's side he had a long line of honorable ancestry.

The branch of the family from which Norman Williams sprung entered Vermont in 1774. Captain Phineas Williams led his large family up the valley of the Connecticut, to the northwestern part of Woodstock Township, where for sixty years the town records show them as leaders in town and county affairs, its representatives in Senate and House of Representatives, or holding office in the courts. Jesse Williams, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was appointed Associate Judge by the Governor, and subsequently Probate Judge for the Hartford district. Norman Williams, the father, born in Woodstock in 1791, was graduated from the University of Vermont in the class of 1810. After his admission to the bar, he married Mary Ann Wentworth Brown, members of whose family had filled important

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This biographical sketch of Mr. Williams was presented as a special committee report at the annual meeting of the Directors in 1900. It presumably was written by Mr. *Eliphalet W. Blatchford*, Chairman of the committee. It seems desirable to preserve this contemporary estimate of Norman Williams by his close associates. Only a few changes have been made in an effort to facilitate its appreciation at this time.

offices in the colonial government before the Revolution, more than one having served as Governor of New Hampshire.

Mr. Williams' early education began at the public school in his native town, and continued at the Kimball Academy of Meriden, Connecticut, where his preparation for college was completed. He entered the University of Vermont (Burlington), where he was graduated in 1855, and then began his law course in the Albany Law School, at the time one of the prominent schools of the country, continuing his studies in the office of Tracy, Converse & Barrett, in Woodstock.

Soon after Mr. Williams' admission to the bar, at the age of twenty-three, he came to Chicago, in October, 1858, where for over forty years he has been recognized as a citizen in whom centered, in a rare degree, elements of moral, intellectual, civic, social, and business influence, with a genius for friendship which bound to him irrevocably all who came within its attractive power. For two years Mr. Williams practiced his profession alone. In 1860 he formed a partnership with King & Kales, from which he withdrew in 1866, and then associated himself with General John L. Thompson, under the firm name of Williams & Thompson, an association that continued till the death of General Thompson, in 1888, the firm later becoming Williams, Holt & Wheeler. Mr. Williams' thorough studies, together with his preference, naturally led him in his practice into fields of general business, in which his advice, founded on well-established principles of law and equity, secured for him an enviable reputation. In course of time it brought him into many connections as legal adviser, and he served in their early day with some of the business enterprises that gradually added largely to the wealth and reputation of our city. Mr. Williams was consulted in the organization of the Pullman Palace Car Company, and became a member of its Board of Directors. He early became interested in the practical applications of electrical science. His efforts secured for Chicago its first telephone, and he was the principal organizer of the

Western Electric Company and the Chicago Telephone Company. Owing to these interests he became an expert in theoretical and practical electrical subjects, which, added to his legal knowledge in these fields, acquired in the course of his connection with the patent suits involved, led to his appointment as United States Commissioner to the Paris Electrical Exposition in 1881.

On December 11, 1867, Mr. Williams was married to Caroline Sherill Caton, daughter of Hon. John Dean Caton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

The central point of appreciation from which Mr. Williams' life is viewed in our community naturally is his special ability as a lawyer. The writer's first acquaintance with him as a legal counsellor was in deciding upon the constitution and by-laws of a corporation, new and peculiar in the trust involved and the duties to be administered. The breadth of his observation and the wisdom of his counsel were proved in the success of the enterprise. A brother lawyer says of him: "Mr. Williams was one of the best lawyers in the city. He did not appear much in the courts, but rendered tremendous service to his clients as a legal adviser. I venture to say that, until his health began to fail him, he was acknowledged by the legal profession as the leading business lawyer of Chicago. He was a man of fine conscience and great sagacity."

As a citizen Mr. Williams ever responded to calls made upon his time and influence. He was a stanch Republican, and though he never sought or held any political office, his advice often was called for, and his voice was heard in favor of true, strong, upright political action. During our Civil War he was a constant supporter of the Government. He was specially active in securing arms for the first regiment of colored troops recruited in our city, and in forming the Irish Republican Club, long a power for good. It has been said of him: "He was a citizen deeply interested in the welfare of the community, in its philanthropies and charities, a man who had the soul of honor, and a Christian gentleman."

Mr. Williams served as guardian and adviser of large estates, and acted in many other responsible positions where good judgment, integrity, and honor were essential. He was for many years a member of the Second Presbyterian Church and Chairman of its Board of Trustees. While an active worker in many developments of the strenuous life of this city, Mr. Williams found time for the cultivation of a literary taste which found expression in thoughtfulness for educational interests. In addition to a membership in the Chicago and Calumet clubs, he was a member of the University clubs of this city and New York, and a charter member of the Literary Club of Chicago. He became a Director of the Chicago Public Library and gave thought and personal labor to the direction of this institution at its formative period, some of the results of these labors being doubtless recognized in its continued useful and influential growth and development. Some of the enthusiasm of his work on behalf of the John Crerar Library may be traced to this earlier experience in our city institution. In connection with his brothers and sisters, Mr. Williams resigned his share in the family homestead at Woodstock, dedicating it to the uses of a public library, which was founded and endowed by his brother, the late Edward Harrison Williams, of Philadelphia, and named after their father, "The Norman Williams Public Library." Norman Williams planned its incorporation, was the first President of its Board of Trustees, and gave to the details of its administration, and the admirable planning of the building itself, his time and thought.

But at this time it is particularly in his relation to us, as the first President of the Board of Directors of the John Crerar Library, that we preserve his memory as a precious example.

When his long time and intimate friend, John Crerar, planned his magnificent gift to the city to which he owed his wealth, it was natural that he should choose to carry out his beneficent plans a man so eminently fitted by ability, taste,

and experience for the responsible position. Thus was Mr. Williams permitted to give the closing years of an eminently useful life to laying the foundations and planning the administration of an institution in which was embodied his literary taste, his desire for the largest benefit to his fellow-citizens, his experience, his observation and study of libraries and consultation with distinguished librarians throughout the world. As a true and safe leader he presided at our Directors' meetings; every detail in the administration of our library in hand, suggesting wise action and inspiring confidence by his own broad views and his prompt, clear decisions. Here has been manifested that geniality of temper which constituted an attractive charm, never absent from his countenance and manner. Here, in the Directors' Room, will he be missed as we gather from time to time. Back of the President's chair the life-size portrait of the founder of the library looks down upon us. May we not here have a portrait also of him into whose faithful hands John Crerar intrusted the inception of his inestimable gift?

At the quarterly meeting of the Board held on April 9, 1898, Mr. Williams presided for the last time. Already illness had marked him, to the alarm of his friends. Soon thereafter he left for his seaside home at Little Boar's Head, Rye Beach, New Hampshire, where, after a long-continued and heroic struggle against disease, on June 19, 1899, he quietly passed away. He left a widow and three children — Laura, wife of Major-General Wesley Merritt; Mary Wentworth Williams; and a son, Norman Williams, Jr.

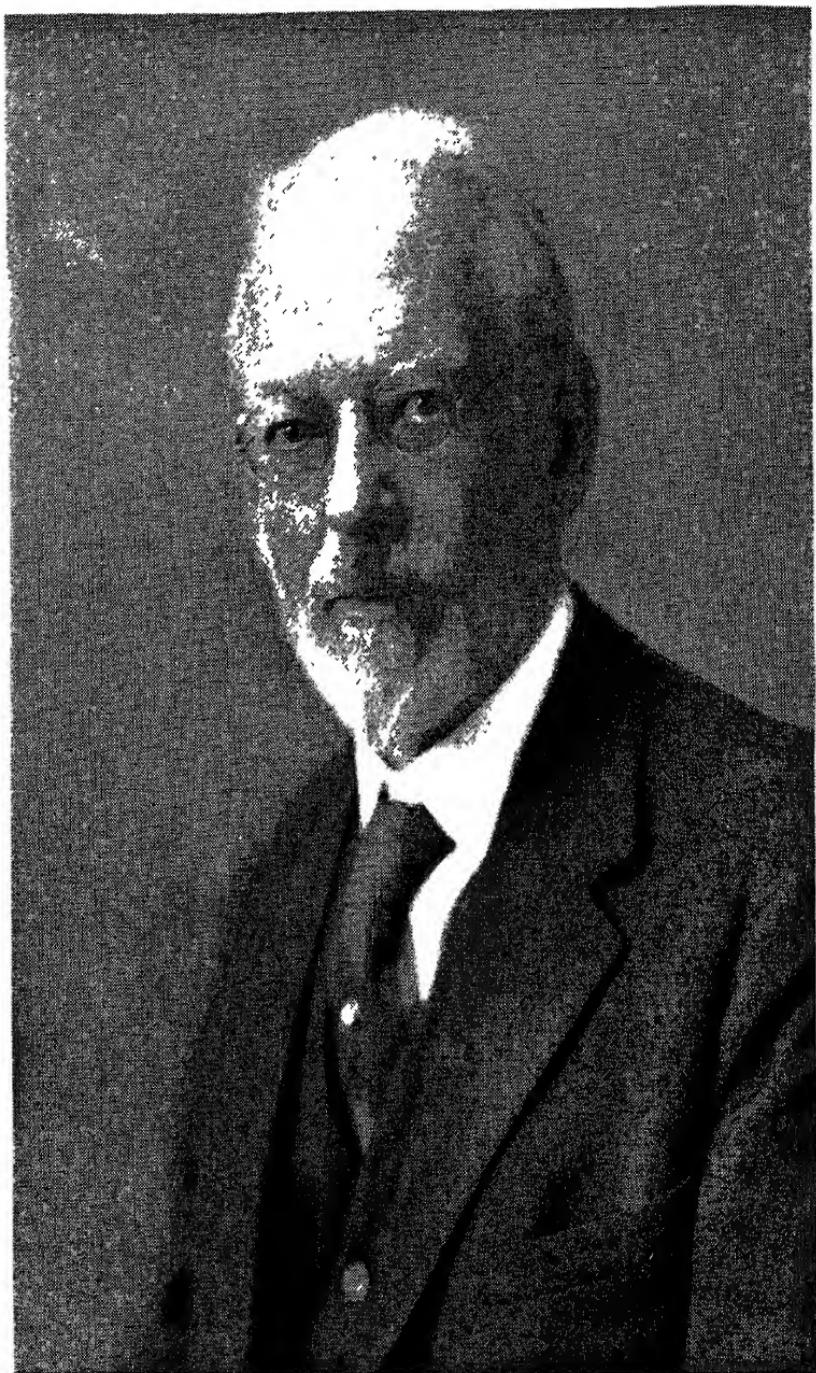
Many are the men whom the Green Mountain State that bore Norman Williams has given to our city. Its rugged hills, its patriotic traditions, its colonial history, its soundness of faith, its heroic responses in every struggle of our Republic, developed a manhood whose influence in professional and business pursuits has been incorporated into the very fiber of our city's life.

To the number of these men who have joined the ma-

jority do we now add the name of one, the genial light of whose countenance, the beauty of whose character, and the warmth of whose friendship will ever dwell with us:

NORMAN WILLIAMS





CLEMENT WALKER ANDREWS

V

## *The First Librarian: Clement Walker Andrews*

*(1858 - 1930)*



*Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,  
As the swift seasons roll!  
Leave thy low-vaulted past!  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,  
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,  
Till thou at last are free,  
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.*

Dr. Andrews, born in 1858 in Salem, Massachusetts, was a son of General Joseph Andrews and his wife, Judith Walker Andrews, both members of old and respected New England families. He was educated in the Boston Latin school and afterwards at Harvard University, where he received his A.B. in 1879 and his A.M. in 1880. The honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Northwestern University in 1911.

After some years spent in various laboratories with analytical work on sugars and other subjects in analytic chemistry and with researches on the synthesis of industrial inks, Dr. Andrews became instructor in chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and served in this capacity from 1883 to 1895. From 1889 he also gave serv-

ice as librarian. He reorganized and successfully developed the Institute library, and there laid the foundation for his great book knowledge and his insight and skill in the form of library organization which he afterwards developed in greater detail in Chicago.

In 1895 the directors of The John Crerar Library faced the problem of selecting a librarian for the organization of this new institution, entrusted to them by the will of John Crerar. This library was designed as a free public library, specializing in the fields of pure and applied science, technology, the useful arts, sociology, and academic publications and documents within this scope. Dr. Andrews brought to this task a mature culture and a practical experience in several special fields of science and technology. He brought a mastery of linguistic knowledge and a knowledge of large groups of books. His cultural background also had been deepened by European travel and by a wide experience among the great libraries developed in New England during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

From the beginning of his services in 1895 until his resignation, due to ill health, in 1928, Dr. Andrews enjoyed and sustained the complete confidence and trust of the directors of The John Crerar Library; few librarians had an equal autonomy of initiative and action. He fulfilled in a very efficient way their farsighted plans for the usefulness of The John Crerar Library. He perfected, in a minuteness of detail, not only the plans but also many of the ideas and visions of great librarians and bibliographers of his period as well as of past ages. During his administration, The John Crerar Library grew from nothing to more than half a million volumes. The selection not only of books but of a library staff resulted in a combination of forces which made a very distinct contributory mark in the library life of the city while it grew from a provincial town into a world community. The directors of The John Crerar Library gave further recognition of this by a resolution adopted some years ago when Dr. Andrews retired and was created li-

brarian emeritus of the Library after his service of two and thirty years.

Dr. Andrews' mind was deeply rooted in his New England traditions. His family had been closely attached to the circle which congregated about Dr. Edward Everett Hale and the Holmes family. While resting in a hospital on his way from the South in 1929, he talked to his nurses about the great New England poets. He told them about Boston and Cambridge and of the Salem which he loved. He recited, as he often would in the Library, especially to the young, his beloved "Chambered Nautilus." "This poem," he said to me on one occasion, "epitomizes pretty well my philosophy of life; they might read it at my funeral." He would dwell on the "Sentinel on the Bridge" — and would say, with a sigh, "You know, I've stood on that bridge. Tell them to read that poem as an expression of patriotism." He would recite the "One Hoss Shay" without faltering — but, in later years, with a tear.

In a literary and general way, his reports are his chief memorial. Among his contributions to the programs of the Chicago Literary Club, Dr. Andrews contemplated with whimsical fondness his pretended and whimsical survey of Cocos Island, which brought out surprising facts about this remote colony of Scotchmen. His knowledge of books remained tenacious until the last. In his humorous disquisition on the Literary Club, Dr. Wild mentions among librarians the famous Andronicus Clemens and his famous apothegm: "How tedious and tasteless is this topic. It is 'pan-this' and 'pan-that' on every side until I would that the whole mess might be panned, and the diversities of human nature reduced by about ninety-eight per cent."

Mr. Andrews was deliberate in all things, even when excited to the point of impatience. It was no easy matter to win his confidence and at all times a dangerous matter to run counter to his dicta. But he yielded with grace when convinced by friendly counsel, and no machination ever escaped his sense of justice.

In several ways he spoke a language of his own and chafed at the slowness or stupidity of those who failed to follow him. For years I misinterpreted him by translating a whimsical seriousness into haughty reserve and a bark into a bite. Once we turned from each other in mutual anger amidst a discussion over a book; next day he said, with a smile, "Well, here's the book we had that big row about yesterday." From that day I knew that Clement W. Andrews did not allow the sun to set on his anger. On another occasion he scolded bitterly about something but all at once stopped and asked: "Did I say enough on this subject?"

I think it surprised Dr. Andrews how comparatively few of his many successive associates in the library would aspire to independent action by the development of initiative or by sustained study and literary effort, and he often would revert to Dr. Dewey as an example of administrative success through personal fearless devotion to an ideal. He admired greatly his famous uncle Dr. Walker, who instituted a rational medical and psychological care of the patients in the Boston Insane Asylum instead of the old-time incarceration.

In his work as a librarian and administrator, Dr. Andrews broke away from the scholastic type and joined hands with those who see, and work toward, a social ideal. First of all, he had a live conscience toward the A. L. A. In the fall of 1929 he charged me to give to Mr. Milam this message: "In conducting the affairs of The John Crerar Library as well as in maintaining a safe line of conduct for myself, I always have been guided by the collective opinions and practices sponsored by the A. L. A."

He accordingly shared heartily in many current professional undertakings and could maintain his views with great insistence. His contributions to the library meetings are numerous. He had high visions of the collective duties of our profession, nor did he spare himself any trouble in placing his own library where it would command prestige. Our annual reports are built uniformly around certain units of activity. So closely was he identified with every detail of

our work for many years, that his personality became one with the efforts which cumulated into a record of unusual achievement. The cult of rare books, incunabula and other bibliophile esoterica did not affect Dr. Andrews deeply, but he had an unfailing instinct for what was needed by way of reference sources. As late as 1926 he purchased a periodical still left on his original list of desiderata from 1895, and its purchase closed the accession of a group which rarely if ever can be acquired in this age.

When the Crerar was founded, the Decimal classification was the only completed system available for use. It was adopted, and during the progress of our work many original features and expansions were added. It is characteristic of Dr. Andrews' attitude on this subject that he did not care to discuss the relative merits of different schemes of classification but argued that valid possibilities were without number. Our catalogues were planned for a generation interested in intelligent self-activity. The classed catalogue became the center of the reference unit and was supported by an author catalogue and an elaborate subject index. Mr. Roden, referring to the group of workers sharing in this system of reference tools, has used the term "brilliant." This indeed applies to the research and the editorial work which was deposited in these catalogues by Mr. Josephson, Miss Hawley, Miss Forstall, and many of their younger associates.

The organization of the Crerar's work began with Dr. Andrews, but was anticipated, as the documents of our early days show, by the directors, who made thorough studies of library administration before beginning to practice it. The details were defined and elaborated by the librarian. They provided a prompt accession of new material and allowed for its ready treatment by a routine which had for its center and key the reference service. This system consisted in a combination of lists and indexes which permitted each book to be available for use at once and enabled each worker to follow its every step until it finally reached the shelves —

and its catalogue and subject records reaching the catalogues simultaneously. Nothing was left to chance. Each responsible staff member contributed to the selection of research material, all were potential reference assistants. This was library science practiced with fervor and purpose. The result was that the library gradually attained an enviable reputation as a reference center within its scope. The librarian emphasized cooperation with other local libraries and was very active therein. It is literally true that no problem was beyond his ken, no detail beyond his reach; in those days his working hours often began before nine a.m. and ended at midnight. No method, no material, no idea, was left unconsidered, if it promised to meet the wants of our patrons. Great collections were purchased in those days when a little money would reach a long way. No material, no effort, no man power, was considered too precious; it all went into the system. In a farsighted and broadly democratic way, the Crerar grew to be considered rather an aristocrat among libraries. Its prestige rested on the excellence of its collections, their linguistic breadth, their chronologic depth, their early perfection in the acquisition of corner-stones and solid historic foundation: a worthy parallel to the Newberry. Behind it all stood a librarian whose ideals were asserted almost ruthlessly, but who craved as much for his life-work and his library as he craved little for himself.

Mr. Andrews' administration was strictly economical, and as regards salaries very conservative. In the early days when book prices were low as compared with later times, purchases might have been made which now are difficult or impossible. But the Librarian never exhausted his budget, and once every year we would buy some monumental work at a seemingly high price and feel extravagant. The prices now would seem low.

The writer of these lines has lived to see the three other large libraries of Chicago undergoing radical changes in administration and methodology. No explosion ever came

near the organization of the Crerar. Its practices are so well defined that we can truthfully assert a development in a historical continuity of the past. The better we can anticipate future demands, the better we fulfill our destinies. Of C. W. Andrews, in his years of strength, I can truthfully say, with the poet: "He dreamed of many things now drawing near and nearer." . . . The selection of books continued systematically from the beginning. The Crerar forms an organized collection. It was benefited by the successive inclusion of large purchases of well selected groups: the Gerritsen, the Ely, the Senn, the DuBois Reymond, the Meissner, the Baum, the Ehrenburg, Wiedemann, Le Baron, Johnson, and many minor collections and special groups. A cross section of almost any unit in the library will show a well balanced *selection* — proportionate to the use — of material within the life period of the library and a liberal sprinkling of the classics of all ages. In time, we limited or extended our scope here and there, yielding certain groups to other local libraries; in some cases where we yielded we regretted the result.

The justified pride of race and group and college creditable to Dr. Andrews' earlier years mellowed under the long influence of the Western spirit and was felt as a reserved dignity natural to a man who had identified himself with great traditions and renewed them. By education a scientist with a sure and safe method, Dr. Andrews might easily have overlooked the popular demand which came to him in the work of the library. But the Crerar developed as a unit of research not only for the scholar but also for the industrial worker and the student, whether free, high school, undergraduate or advanced — that is, it provided the requisite material and became a research center efficient for many purposes within its provinces.

The Crerar's activities were reflected from time to time in papers and committee reports incorporated in the proceedings of the A. L. A. It was a happy — a long and happy period in the life of him who finally stood as Chicago's

revered senior librarian. The swiftness of his thought, his touch, his initiative, were proverbial. Then, one dark night, the blow fell, and he was helpless as a child and as sensitively in need of sympathy. His worst fear was that his work might be shattered by new policies, his efforts belittled. He needed have no fear. He said one day: "I am glad that you will uphold my work." I told him there would be a natural historical continuity on the basis of this work. The directors were kind and thoughtful. The library staff crowded about him as long as he could continue his visits, greeting him as the old master.

Andrews was ever ready with anecdote or reminiscence of events, but he refused to record any such, as he could not be sure of the correct sequence of incidents related. I am grateful for the glimpses which he revealed in old age of an affectionate, responsive and even buoyant humanity. "My library experience," he said one day, "began by my dispensing books in a lunatic asylum — and now they think hospital libraries are something new." Another day, speaking of the Code of Ethics for librarians, he dismissed the subject with this remark: "How can anybody codify the actions of gentlemen — what do these people take us for?" At last there was but little left except the appreciation of sincerity: "Bring William Teal — he is a tonic."

And so, with the sense of the Crerar library's loyalty and gratitude, this old master at last retired into the inner chamber of his nautilus, the chamber closing after him. But there is a live nerve passing through the wall: it is memory, sound knowledge, initiative, foresight, diligence, a high purpose, achievement of prestige. I think Mr. Crerar would say that his will was reasonably well fulfilled in the work of our first librarian, as he understood and attended the demands of his day.

After a period of weakness induced by the inevitable wear from restless activity Dr. Andrews passed away quietly on November 20, 1930.

## *The Library Staff*



Every institution, large or small, for profit or for public benefit, represents a composite of numerous forces, always reacting on one another, each responding personally to the general plan, the agreed ideas mutually understood and accepted, and to the demands, usually unspoken, of the administration. In every library there is such a process, and like all human processes, its product is measured by the health of the organism. Individual traits, good and less good, of the staff members, come into play; likes and dislikes, zeal, preferences, prejudices, special personal gifts, must by mutual contacts be cultivated or curbed or forever regulated, to produce the harmony necessary to the institutional welfare.

In most cases, appointees must prove themselves before a library accepts them. Still, however carefully considered beforehand, they cannot be estimated — or esteemed — until their work and influence has been tested. For this reason all appointments here at Crerar, like elsewhere, always were considered temporary for six months. This is a safeguard to both parties. In our case it was all the more purposeful, because our service depended upon qualities, knowledge and ingenuity, promptness of action and versatility, corresponding to the special demands which more and more became our province.

It was a fixed principle for many years that appointees

to our staff, while assigned to definite duties, were still considered general assistants and, possessing a library school education, would lend their efforts to any special duties that might devolve upon them in routine or from necessity.

Amidst ideals and the varying approach to them, amidst the waves of new methods, increasing organization and the ever-widening spread of some library gospel everywhere, the Crerar gradually glided into place as a factor in a large and coherent group of larger and smaller forces. Staff members came and went, but the influence of each left its mark, and it is quite natural, as we try to sum up the life of the Library so far, to remember those who were especially active in our composite life, and that their merits should be recorded while somebody still is here to recall them.



Mention has been made of our first Assistant Librarian, Mr. *Anderson H. Hopkins*, who took up his duties with Mr. Andrews in the beginning and remained until 1903, when he became Librarian of the Louisville Free Library. Mr. Hopkins had been Assistant Librarian of the University of Michigan but did not thrive in Chicago, although the growing Crerar staff became very fond of him. He unfortunately in time became disillusioned in regard to library work and retired from his connection with it. Librarians will recollect how he rose like a new star in the American Library Association, but his light and strength gave out.

It has been said that the Library began with a brilliant staff. The changes in the staff during the early years were relatively numerous and officially described as such in 1898 and the following years. Probably the cause was similar to that which drove many early settlers to abandon their homestead claims and return to friendly pastures. The service, new and serious and untried, with subject matters scarcely defined, covering not only American or British sources but international in scope and content, must have been over-

whelming to all concerned, with the exception of the Librarian — who, indeed, in those early years, *was* the library.

Mr. *Hervey White*, our first reference librarian and a versatile, buoyant person, quickly became disheartened and left in 1899 to devote himself to belletristic authorship. Dr. *H. A. Millis*, economist, his successor, resigned in 1902 and was succeeded by *Charles J. Barr*, who in 1903 became Assistant Librarian in place of Mr. Hopkins and remained until 1917, when he went in a similar capacity to Yale University. Barr, a man of independent fortune, fond of music, but very quiet and unassuming, held the affection of the changing staff.

Changing — yes, for as the Library grew in size and influence, it proved an excellent practical training school for young library school graduates with liberal arts courses and library training (always very incomplete in science and the useful arts) who were needed in the more serious departments of public libraries and in the rapidly developing libraries for practical purposes all over the land.

Mr. *A. G. S. Josephson*, a graduate of the New York State Library School, was appointed chief cataloguer in 1896 and served until 1923, when eye trouble forced him to resign his position. Mr. Josephson possessed an academic education and had a thorough knowledge of bibliographic methods and literature. To him belongs the merit of developing that tripartite catalogue which has stood many tests of accuracy and practical usage. In the early days, before cataloguing conventions had been perfected, the Crerar conclusions and applications often were tested on and compared with those of the Library of Congress, and later systems of printed cards were modeled after them. Our catalogue department consistently would analyze and, if possible, codify our practices and forms as determined by the study of variant publications. Personally, Mr. Josephson published occasional results of his studies in our library periodicals. He viewed his work from an international standpoint. His *Bibliographies of Bibliographies* (1901)

attracted wide attention, and he deserves credit for his activity in the organization of the Bibliographical Society of Chicago, out of which grew, later, the Bibliographical Society of America. Like many of his colleagues in the nineties, Mr. Josephson assiduously studied the origin and history of printing, but the scantness of original material in Chicago in those days prevented him from progressing in this field as he hoped. He took great interest in recording books on the history of science, but the Crerar catalogues are his greatest contribution, and his work in connection with them was stupendous. He passed away last December.

Another Albany library school graduate, Miss *Mary Hawley*, served as Assistant Cataloguer from 1898 to 1919 and attained a mastership in the treatment of all forms of cataloguing. Apart from this, Miss Hawley possessed culture and grace of thought and manner, was widely read and interested and thus lent considerable influence to the tone of the younger cataloguing staff members.

Our first classifier, Mr. *C. W. Perley*, a graduate of the M. I. T., wavered for some years between the Crerar and the Library of Congress and at last remained there, a master of his specialty.

In 1903 Mr. *Charles H. Brown*, who had joined our staff the year before, was made Reference Librarian and remained six years, with sundry assistants coming and going. Mr. Brown went to Brooklyn as Assistant Librarian in 1908 and later on from there, as Librarian, to the Agricultural (State) College at Ames, Iowa, where he still remains, with a very large and well organized institution to his credit. He became an excellent administrator well deserving of the honor, some years ago, of being elected President of the American Library Association.

Brown was succeeded as Reference Librarian by *Edward D. Tweedell*, from 1910 Assistant Librarian, a facile, lovable, friendly and active, but bodily frail man, who succumbed to a lingering illness in 1928. His successor as Reference Librarian was *Robert J. Usher*, from 1927 Librarian

of the Howard Memorial Library (now combined with that of Tulane University) in New Orleans. Mr. Usher, a thoughtful, painstaking worker, a librarian by choice since his youth, is an example of a man's happy adaptation to his work, and the patrons of the Library remembered for years his never failing efficiency. He passed away in August, 1944.

Mr. Usher was succeeded by *H. E. Mose*, a man of different type, a scholar in many fields, an extraordinary explorer of new lands in literature — but as he still is among us, we must change the subject.

As Assistant Librarian Mr. Tweedell was succeeded by Mr. *Randall French*, who had had previous experience here as Assistant Cataloguer. To our public service Mr. French contributed a very efficient energy and rendered the delivery desk almost perfect in its functions. He was succeeded by Mr. *Kanardy L. Taylor*, and the title of the office changed to that of Chief of Public Service, although with various administrative duties attached, which Mr. Taylor has met with skill and energy.

Among our assistant reference librarians several went to other libraries and attained distinction: Mr. *W. M. Hepburn* in time became Librarian of Purdue University, Mr. *Harold L. Leupp*, in his turn became Director of the University of California Library, Mr. *Francis D. Goodrich*, now Librarian of the College of the City of New York; Mr. *D. A. Hooker*, who also held the position as Reference Librarian, went into larger services at the Detroit Public Library and in Birmingham, Ala. It may be mentioned here that one of our efficient attendants, Mr. *Anthony Gabler*, in time became Reference Librarian in the Huntington Library in San Marino. Mr. *William Teal*, appointed as a junior assistant in 1901, rose to the position as Assistant Reference Librarian in 1922, but left us the same year to become Librarian of the Cicero Public Library. He re-entered the Library as Superintendent of Stacks in 1928 and continued as such until his retirement in 1930. He once more returned to us during the present war emergency and

has given altogether 36 years of his life to our Library. His skill and heartiness in meeting our readers and his complete devotion to his work, are a permanent memory with us. Mr. Teal's specialty is the birthdays of all librarians, and he still retains in his mind hundreds of call numbers of books frequently used by our readers in past decennia.

Another member of our reference staff, Mr. *Jerome K. Wilcox*, a distinguished and successful student of public documents, appointed in 1928, was elected Assistant Librarian at Duke University in 1933 and later went to the University of California Library as Associate Director.

As Medical Reference Librarian, served at first Brig-Gen. Dr. *A. C. Girard*, who had been an assistant to the famous pathologist Rudolf Virchow and afterwards seen many years of military service in our army posts in the West. He took charge of the medical emergency in San Francisco on the day after the earthquake in 1906 and before that saw service in the Philippines. The disastrous death which overtook his daughter caused him to resign in 1911, and he was succeeded by Dr. *Audrey Goss*, later Mrs. Morgan, who gave us two years of excellent work. Her successor, *J. Christian Bay*, had charge of the department until 1927, and the work then passed into the hands of Miss *Ella Salmons*, who not only had unusual gifts for this office, but still continues to verify them.

For over sixteen years Mr. *William A. Brennan*, a graduate of Dublin University, a good linguist and a man of many abilities, from higher mathematics to water-colour painting, oscillated very efficiently between the medical reference service and classification. He was a great comfort in both capacities, even-tempered and balanced in attitude and opinion. Mr. Brennan passed away some years ago in Los Angeles — among his private hobbies was an intensive study of gold mines and their movements in the financial field; and beginning with a minute investment he acquired in time a modest competence. His many children, his constant care for years, grew up and became fully worthy

of their gifted father, who had none but appreciative friends in our staff and among our readers.

Miss *Editha Phelps*, our earliest appointee, came from Marquette, Michigan, where her father, a clergyman, had gained distinction. The Rev. Mr. Josiah Phelps had made a study of natural history, and was one of our earliest students of wild life with the camera. He assisted Lewis Henry Morgan and furnished illustrations for Morgan's book *The American Beaver* (1868), still the best book on its subject. His daughter remained in our service for more than twenty years, bright, cultured, an avowed liberal, defying in a gentle manner all vested authority, even on occasion that of the Librarian. Her pitched battles for the privilege of extra leave of absence — but especially the rare elegance of her use of the French language, and her quick wit, are sources of memory with a smile. She charmed Professor Vernadsky of St. Petersburg, when he visited the Library; she probably was long remembered by Professor Curie.

Some few persons in this sinful world seem to do the right thing by instinct at all times. This is true of Mrs. *Constance (Strandel) Lundquist*, who resigned as Assistant Reference Librarian in 1944 (after thirteen years), a favorite of all our patrons. Her use of French is as perfect as was that of Editha Phelps.

Miss *Sarah S. Dickinson* gave us 35 years of continued service. She was another daughter of a minister of the Gospel, her brother Clarence became a renowned concert master, and our dear sister Sarah, herself, in spite of her perpetual struggles with thousands of refractory current periodicals and their binding, contrived to cultivate many interests. Her only sorrow was that for many years no assistant was granted her, but with or without assistants she kept her department in a wonderful state of perfection. Only once did she accept a luncheon invitation from a reader, but he was one of Chicago's foremost citizens and over ninety years of age. She retired in 1934 and passed away at New Year, 1945.

Miss *Charlotte Foye*, ever gracious and graceful, designated as shelf-lister in a variant issue of our annual report for 1896, indeed won golden spurs (if ladies may benefit by this metaphor) in shelflisting for twenty-three years. The task is not easy. It presupposes a full knowledge of all forms of entry known to cataloguers. It requires alertness and constant attention to detail.

Among the lady members of our staff Miss *Gertrude Forstall* easily won a high rank by her excellent character, her devotion to Crerar ideals, and her abilities as a cataloguer. Miss Forstall was a member of our staff on the opening day of the Library, she held temporary assistantships for some time but joined the force definitely in 1908 and succeeded Mr. Josephson as Chief Cataloguer in 1923, but resigned this position in 1928, being succeeded by Miss Alice Charlton. Miss Forstall's service and work is remembered by the Directors in the following words: "It is difficult to express the great influence which Miss Forstall exercised upon the various functions of the Library during her service of thirty-two years. Her high ambition, her incessant diligence and her great ability will remain on the records of the Library as a lasting memorial to her skill and her faithful application."

The reminiscences of Miss Dickinson and Miss Forstall, originally printed in our house organ, *The J. C. L. Quarterly*, are reproduced in full as appendices to the present chapter.

Miss *Elizabeth Montross* also deserves a special footnote to our history. A graduate of Hamilton College and a classmate of several budding, later renowned, statesmen, she had moved in good circles and was endowed with personal presence, poise and high endurance. While a teacher of Latin in a Chicago high school, she became attracted to library work and called on Mr. Andrews to clarify her prospects. The Librarian informed her that in order to be given any position of responsibility she would best obtain the advantage of proper special education in a library school. Miss

Montross promptly entered the University of Illinois Library School, where she became a classmate of Miss Jane Cooke, who afterwards performed miracles of cataloguing in the Library of Congress. Miss Montross left Urbana after her graduation, returned to Chicago, reported to Mr. Andrews, and entered the Library at an early opportunity, in 1899. For thirty-one years she worked systematically at the development of our subject catalogue. Endowed with skill and great endurance she would take her time for everything and defy everybody in her decisions. She would contend with the world, including the Librarian, for the shade of word's meaning in the most impersonal way, and quite often won her point. In case of defeat she would hide the offending problem in her desk and await an opportunity to enforce her decision. At her untimely death in 1933 she left thousands of such problems.

Miss *Grace O. Kelly* came to the Library in 1911 to assist in classification, for which she had special gifts. She succeeded J. Christian Bay as classifier in 1917 and engaged in theoretical studies of subject headings resulting in a doctoral dissertation at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, published in 1937, a work which indicated new and apparently promising methods in reference work. Her resignation was deeply regretted, as we appreciated her unique talent for organizing and integrating all library problems, which was duly recognized by the Committee on Administration.



Including all classes of staff members, officers, senior assistants and juniors, attendants and pages, the past membership of the Library's forces approaches one thousand, all told. Among these many persons were, as we have seen, some distinctive personalities, and not a few of our young people, calling on us in later years, proved their success in life.

The ladies naturally always outnumbered the men. Several already were mentioned, others also deserve appreciative recognition. Miss *Ellen Garfield Smith* remained with the Library but four short years, but her presence was a blessing. For more than twenty years after leaving Chicago Miss Smith directed the Public Library in Walla Walla, Washington, and passed away there, a favorite of the community. — Miss *Jennie Hulce*, an indefatigable worker, always seemed to attract the hardest and most distracting pieces of work, but remained from 1904 to 1934 and then was to retire with an allowance, but succumbed to life's wear and tear within a week after leaving her desk and so literally died in harness. — Miss *Genevieve Darlington* had charge of our public catalogue for twenty years (1903-1923). Our readers admired her gentle and safe guidance and her serious interest in their problems. Still young, she became librarian of one of our high schools and naturally met with equal success there. — Miss *Elsa Neiglick*, who came to us in 1906, and was continuously exposed to the inclemencies involved in the recording of a steadily increasing mass of continuations, joined the staff of the New York Public Library in 1923, but her very fine work still shows in our records.

Miss *Helen Dalton Brown*, a staff member from 1911 to 1920, a lady clear-headed, positive and gifted, would have made a mark in any library by her excellent cataloguing, but she went away to other and more important duties.

From 1905 to 1923 Miss *Cornelia White*, of Cazenovia, N. Y., kept our bindery records. The writer does not remember when she passed away, but this does not signify, because her older and younger colleagues never will forget her. A sister of the famous mathematician Professor Henry S. White, of Vassar College, and a minister's daughter, Miss White preserved the charm of manner derived from her New England childhood and youth. She would drop little pieces of prose and poetry, copied in her precise handwriting, on the desks of her colleagues in early morning hours,

to cheer them. She never, probably never in her life, raised her voice above its gentle modulation, and her equanimity as contagious. For years Miss White supported struggling young ministers in their work on difficult frontiers out of her slender funds. It was fitting that the Cazenovia Seminary at last called her to serve as its registrar, and that she thus should return to her seat in the pew in her father's church which had sheltered her childhood. It is tempting to reproduce the article written in her memory by her pastor in an eastern periodical: "The Quiet Pilgrim."

To vary for a moment the subject with introducing a gentleman, Mr. *James B. Childs* gave us three years of splendid work as a cataloguer of periodicals and serials. Mr. Childs is a born librarian, with a prodigious memory. No wonder that during his first visit at the Library of Congress its authorities induced him to join their staff, and that he became chief of the Document Division and a distinguished authority on government publications, their bibliography and their treatment from a library standpoint.

To return to the ladies, Miss *Josie Ward* gave us thirty-two years of expert service in collateral book binding restoration of bindings and their contents from wear and tear and abuse). She seemed somewhat elderly in 1936, but returned on temporary service in 1941 and still is with us, tireless, her age incalculable.

Miss *Margaret Furness* was a member of our staff from 1907 to 1932, with some brief intervals, and won general respect for the unfailing exactness of her work. Miss Furness has literary and social interests and a keen appreciation of the fine things in life.

Miss *Mabel Eaman*, for eleven years (1919-30) in charge of our ordering of books and a model of painstaking correctness under conditions of sharp responsibility, became librarian of the Lake Forest Public Library but there was defeated by political chicanery, fortunately rare in library history. Miss Eaman, ever active, found other fields of work where her conscientious efforts are valued.

Among many cataloguers that served for shorter periods and later won distinction was Miss *Edna Goss*, later of the Minnesota University Library, Miss *Selma Nachmann*, a veteran in her field at the University of Chicago Library in later times, Miss *Louise Jansen*, now in the Library of Congress; Miss *Lois Bell* (Mrs. Miller), quick and expert in vocal communication, now in the U. S. National Archives; Mrs. *Harriet Gorby Narrin*, whose father worked conscientiously in the Library before the gifted daughter was born; Mrs. *Gudrun Herschend*, who worthily succeeded Miss Sarah S. Dickinson as head of the Periodicals Department but passed away in her buoyant youth; and many others.

Our Assistant Treasurers, located within the library from 1905 to 1941, have been only two in number. Mr. *Bruno Wilke* was with us from 1905 to 1917 and died in service. His successor, Mr. *Thomas R. Orr*, retired in 1943 after 27 years of exemplary service. It would have been difficult to find better men in their field of work.

And last but not least we write the name of Miss *Harriet Penfield*, a graduate of Oberlin and a worthy link between its unforgettable librarian Dr. Azariah Root, and ourselves, — Miss Penfield, one more veteran of thirty-two years' continued excellent and successful work as classifier, still is on deck, a comfort to all about her.



The writer quotes from his annual report for 1932: "Mr. *Richard Diemecke*, born in 1866, our book-binder for nineteen years, passed away in 1932 after a long illness. He is remembered as a man who never let his work wait for him, and for his sunny disposition and his devotion to the Library. He loved flowers, beautiful books, a cheerful song, and was happy in his home life. Innumerable are the flowers which he carried into the Library which had become part of his life and his chief concern. Persons of such positive

qualities deserve a place of honor in the annals of the Library."



Thirty-two years seem a standard of endurance among our more hardy staff members. It was observed by our late janitor Mr. *William Jones*, a native of London and a remarkable character in many ways. Mr. Jones was scheduled to begin work at 8 a.m., but he never arrived at that hour. He would appear at 4 or 5 o'clock every morning and never seemed tired. No job ever defied him, not even the whims of the electric lift in our old quarters on Wabash Avenue which one day dropped suddenly with Jones working on top of it. In spite of suffering severe injuries he vowed that no machine could kill him. He invariably expressed doubt — even to "Mr. Handrews" — as to whether he would find time to do any emergency jobs or other unforeseen work, but the work was done then and there. Jones saved the Library thousands of Dollars of expense for repairs and painting. Varnishing and painting were hobbies with him, and everything sooner or later received a coat of shellac. And when overtaken by a cold Jones would promptly dispose of the infirmity by taking a dose of his beloved shellac, mixed with sugar. The greatest hardship that befell him was his retirement, but he remained on deck until his capable hands failed to serve him. Such men perhaps are less rare than we think, but we cannot afford to forget them.

Many of our younger attendants and pages, having come to us as high school or college students, and remaining for shorter or longer periods, afterwards rose in their chosen professions or in business and became attorneys, physicians, manufacturers, skilled artisans, etc. They are remembered by their elders, but, like in their elders, their personal attachment to the John Crerar Library is the fruit of the memory that counts.



## *SUPPLEMENTARY REMINISCENCES*

### *EARLY MEMORIES*

*By SARAH S. DICKINSON*



Boasting the proud title of assistant longest in service at The John Crerar Library, and being able to say of its thirty-five years' history, as did of Troy and its destruction the "Pious Aeneas, whose fame was known beyond the stars," — "All of which, I saw, and of most of which I was a part," it has fallen to my lot to tell something of those early years.

It is interesting to me to recall that on the day of my arrival the entire work of the library, aside from the janitor's service of unpacking boxes of books, was being carried on in a room of very small dimensions, which afterwards served as the check room. Then one blustery day in March, when the wind blew from the north and Mr. Andrews caught a dreadful cold, we abandoned it to spread ourselves along the aisles, among the empty book stacks, and devoted all our energies to the work of filling them.

The librarian's broadness of thought, as he planned that work was impressive. First, the entire catalogue of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Library, from which he had just come, — so similar in scope — had been typewritten for him on cards; and from these a very large number of orders were selected.

Hours were spent in copying titles from Sonnenschein's "Readers' Guide," and "Best Books." Advice was sought from experts. Professors, technical men, those of authority in all subjects, were asked for suggestions and lists. One man in particular influenced the periodical department, himself writing to his personal friends, editors of all the leading labor journals, requesting them to put the library on their free mailing lists.

Second-hand catalogues were much used in those early days. Sets of great value, like the Audubon books, were of course to be obtained only at such sales. Long-distance telephoning was a comparatively new thing, and on one occasion, when the order by letter could not be gotten off in time, we were all thrilled to sit in perfect silence, typewriters hushed, and listen to Mr. Andrews bidding in at the New York Auction room, and so securing some very valuable works.

McClurg for American books, Lemcke and Buechner for foreign ones, were the agents most employed. Periodicals from the first were of great importance, and nearly all back sets were ordered of the Boston Book Co., — now superseded by F. W. Faxon Company, — and came guaranteed perfect, every page, plate, supplement, title page and index being checked. The first work in ordering current issues, was to fit the order on to the last of the back set.

That year of organization was an experience unique, never to be repeated. Little was known of the library, except by a limited circle. Would-be readers who heard of it came, and were welcomed. There were no rules about "Silence," — from our partly filled shelves we gave what we could; but the public was secondary. On April 1, 1897, it was right-about-face, when we opened our doors. And Mr. Hopkins' directions to the staff were, "Now, the Public always comes first; your individual work must always be secondary."

From the sixth floor of Field's building, on the Wabash Avenue side, west to the alley, we descended to the fifth floor; then a mezzanine was built in between; then extra rooms on the seventh floor were rented for the Card Department and for an overflow, and when the Field Company needed all space for themselves and would no longer renew the lease, our own building was made ready, and at last the move came.

Another unique year followed. Aristocratic feelings were somewhat tried by the daily procession through the alley, — the only entrance, — and the ascent in a freight elevator. The fact that the basement, a little way below, had served as an undertaker's establishment, made the squeamish wonder whether possibly a few ghosts might be hovering about. But we were all working on one large floor and it was most convenient to find all departments right at hand; and that queer dark room is an interesting memory.

As soon as quarters could be opened in the rising building and long before it was finished, a temporary reading room was prepared for the impatient public. Then the trouble began! When we came over from Field's only a limited amount of shelving space had been available at 150 North Michigan Avenue; when that was filled, the rest of the books from the stacks had been laid in order on the floors, on their sides. The pages could find a book the first time it was called for; but as there were many layers it was never returned to its original home. And I can still hear the plaintive voice of the little page who said, "Well, I've looked in all the regular places, and the seven

overflows, and I can't find it, and I don't know where else to look!"

These experiences ended at last, when the new home was finished, the final move made, and the J. C. L. entered into its own.

From accidents and disasters we have suffered little. The most exciting event of the sort was the fire which occurred during the night of November 14, 1913, in the binding room. It started at the switch for the electric light, and was probably due to strain caused by the settling of the building. It raged fiercely in the small room, destroying everything,—books and periodicals being prepared for binding, furniture, trucks, even the chandelier. Only the metallic parts were left,—except one ink bottle, and a black silk apron belonging to Miss C. C. White. The loss was estimated at \$6,000.00.

Another fire at Ringer's Bindery took its toll from J. C. L., as well as from others. The chief memory of that is of the destruction of a large pile of Annual Reports of many railroad companies, over which the cataloguing department had toiled and sworn, only to have "Love's Labor Lost."



## *RECOLLECTIONS OF THE J. C. L.*

*By GERTRUDE FORSTALL*

My earliest recollection of the J. C. L. goes back to the spring of 1896, when I made occasional visits to Miss Dickinson, newly appointed on the staff. We had been classmates and tablemates at Armour Institute in 1894-95, and because of that acquaintanceship, a hurry call came to me one day in March, 1897, from Dr. Andrews, asking me to take a temporary position for a month as Miss Shuey (now Mrs. Southworth) was ill, and someone conversant with the intricacies of a Hammond typewriter was needed to type the added author and class entries on the public catalogue cards, preparatory to the grand opening of the library on April 1. (No wonder I have always been a champion of that much abused machine as thus, from my newly acquired skill in its manipulation, there followed my more than thirty years' association with the Crerar.)

We kept open house the first three days of April, 1897, each member of our small staff being detailed to conduct parties through our modest quarters on the 6th floor of Marshall Field Annex, as it was called, a then imposing nine storied building on the northwest corner

of Wabash Avenue and Washington Street. The original Field store, six stories high, occupied only a quarter of the block it now covers entirely; other nearby structures were low, so we had abundance of light and air in these supposedly temporary quarters — the closing-in process came with the passing years.

The attractive Reading Room, with the new furniture, low shelves filled with new books and current periodicals, the corner windows giving a glimpse of Lake Michigan, gave a cordial welcome to the visiting public who came with a curious interest to see the new library whose opening had been well advertised in the newspapers, and we were kept busy answering questions and showing with pride, not only the Reading Room and the card catalogue, then a somewhat novel tool, but also the stacks, work-rooms and best of all, our handsome Directors' Room, furnished much as it is today, but with the addition of the oil portraits of Mr. Crerar and the Duc d'Aumale, which now hang in the main Reading Room. Perhaps Miss Dickinson may recall (for I have forgotten) young George's (our very diminutive page) description of this palatial room to one group of visitors — it caused us to chuckle for days to come. While the Reading Room contained many books with bright, fresh bindings, some of our guests were sadly disappointed at the old, shabby looking tomes in the stacks — the U. S. Public Documents ("Pub. Docs"), the Chief's pride, striking them as inappropriate for a new library.

During my second sojourn at the library in the fall of 1897, I came into closer touch with Dr. Andrews, getting my first glimpse of the rapidity with which his mind worked. He had not the patience to impart information necessary to slower minds, so that usually I would supplement his meager instructions with hints from older members of the staff.

I worked on a temporary basis at the Crerar, at intervals from March, 1897 until September 1898, and on the same day as I started on my fourth (and last) period of temporary service, Miss Mary E. Hawley began her career as Assistant Cataloguer, the first person to have that title.

The "Crerarites" of that day were a happy group, many of us inspired in our ideal of library service by Dr. Dewey and Miss Katharine Sharp, and in our enthusiasm we considered nothing too good for our ever-increasing public, whom even the cataloguers knew personally, because in those days we were frequently on duty at the Periodical Alcove, which served from its strategic position near the

entrance door as Information Desk, or we helped out during the noon hour at the Reference Desk.

From the beginning in 1894 to the purchase of the Junk pamphlets in 1921 the cataloguing force was all too familiar with the problems imposed by the purchase of large libraries or special collections. We never knew what it meant to be up-to-date with the Order Department — there was always a new collection, thousands of volumes, on one order number, to spur us on to greater endeavor.

I cannot recall now just which of our beautiful zoological works were procured from the Newberry and which from the Milne-Edwards' sale. However, the handling of those treasures and the choice botanical books was a great joy and many a time we missed our count of plates because we yielded to the temptation of stopping to enjoy the beauties of Audubon's birds, or Sargent's trees, or Buffon's monkeys.

About 1903, Prof. Richard T. Ely sold to the J. C. L. his interesting collection of labor newspapers and periodicals, gathered from all over the world. We had no space in our small rented quarters for these huge volumes, so a room was rented at the Newberry Library, and here also was afterwards stored part of the Gerritsen purchase.

In 1902 or 1903, Dr. Andrews went abroad to inspect two important collections of some 25,000 volumes belonging to Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Gerritsen, of Amsterdam. These two libraries were offered for sale through the agency of a Mr. Truelove of London, as for personal reasons the owners wished the affair kept secret until the sale was actually consummated. On the Chief's return, how hard we all worked in the comparison of the Gerritsen catalogues with our official catalogue, and what plaintive remarks were exchanged about our "Truelove" as we toiled over the queer (to us) European entries and tried to decipher the various handwritings in Mr. Gerritsen's looseleaved catalogue. Mrs. Gerritsen, who was better known to woman suffrage groups as Dr. Aletta Jacobs, had published a fine volume of several hundred pages, listing in alphabetic and classed arrangement her unique library on the feminist movement in all lands, including all available books on or by women. After working on this collection, I felt, as a woman, somewhat like a rare specimen impaled on a pin for dissection under the microscopical gaze of a wondering world.

Mr. Gerritsen's collection of social and economic subjects supplemented the Ely labor papers in certain phases, so it was quite appro-

priate that these serial publications should be sent over to our storage room at the Newberry Library for accessioning and cataloguing. Here began Miss Hulce's and my serious introduction to serial cataloguing. J. H. would accession and catalogue the treasures she was set to guard, and once a week I would spend a day revising her work. It took muscular effort to handle those newspaper volumes and do the careful collating necessary to the "Elys," but J. H. was never one to shirk, and I found her "wanting" notes most correct.

Many smaller collections were acquired from time to time, but the purchase that nearly swamped the cataloguers and the shelf-lister was that of the medical department. Although it was well known that some day the medical collection would be removed from the Newberry to the Crerar, it was not until the actual transfer of the 70,000 volumes in August, 1907, that we realized the extent of the task ahead of us. Indeed few of the original workers remained to see the end, for as I write these lines, the present staff are doubtless just completing the cataloguing of the Senn Collection. As the Crerar had been a pioneer among libraries in printing its cards, we could buy few cards in the earlier 1900's to supplement our own labors. Only up-to-date copyrighted scientific works were being catalogued then by the Library of Congress and almost no medical books, as the Surgeon-General's catalogue supplied the need for medicine. There was nothing for us to do but "fall to" with a will. How hard Miss Foye worked assigning book numbers, that hot summer, so that the long medical sets could be properly shelved and accessible before they were reached by the cataloguers, for it took Miss Nachman and me seven years to complete the cataloguing of the back sets of periodicals currently received, so rich is the medical collection, and still more time elapsed before we could handle all the "ceased publications," as at the same time we were carrying on our regular work with the current accessions. It was too great labor to transport long sets from the mezzanine above the fifth floor, where the D. M. S. was shelved, to our work space on the sixth floor, with only a freight elevator and the reading room book lift at our disposal, so we catalogued and revised our periodical sets as they stood on the shelves. Because Miss Hawley found this method of work in cramped quarters too taxing, the responsibility of serial cataloguing was gradually put upon my shoulders until it became my beloved specialty.

In looking back over the busy, happy days at the J. C. L., many memories of my colleagues come crowding to mind. Naturally Mr.

Josephson, my "boss," takes first place here, for he was always helpful and encouraging to me (as to others) and we worked together congenially through the years, although he could never make me a bibliographical enthusiast like himself. Miss Hawley, with her idealism, Charlotte Foye, whose social gifts and unfailing sense of humor made her the pride of the staff, Eleanor Roper, Ellen Smith, Blanche Seely, Harriet Hessler, with the others who made their mark upon the Crerar in its formative years and carried its influence to other libraries all over the country — my homage to you!

Another happy association was with Mrs. Florence Patterson, of the Crerar Printing Office in Oquawka, Illinois, who with her husband, Mr. H. N. Patterson, gave immeasurable assistance to the cataloguers by their intelligent interest in our cataloguing problems. Without their cordial cooperation it is doubtful whether the Crerar could have accomplished such large results with its small cataloguing staff; if we had not appreciated these friends before, the printing woes of the six months following Mr. Patterson's death revealed fully their true worth, and we rejoiced heartily when Mrs. Patterson agreed to continue the printing of our cards.

Perhaps a few words on our original working hours may have interest to a staff who finds a flexible schedule of forty-two hours a week too long (I did so myself before I resigned in 1928). But for the first few years our working day was a fixed schedule from 9:00 to 5:30, with a lunch period of an hour. Our weekly average was 45 hours, with a half holiday each fortnight, taken at our pleasure provided that coincided with the convenience of our department. No idle phrase that last — though we were usually permitted to go when we chose, for Mr. Hopkins, the Assistant Librarian, was a lenient soul, and granted favors readily in the shape of short noon hours if we wished to leave at 5:00 P.M. Woe betide the unlucky one who tried to persuade Dr. Andrews to be allowed to return to work after a dental appointment at 2:00 P.M., when the rest of the afternoon would be a blank, as a holiday; you had broken into your working day and must take the consequences of exhausting your free time for two weeks! Each individual kept her time in a blank book which was presented to the Assistant Librarian at the end of the month for approval, the plus or minus being noted in *minutes*.

With a fixed lunch period developed the division of the staff into the "12:00" and "1:00" o'clockers, each set contending that their group was the most desirable. At any rate, we "hoi polloi" of the

high noon hour had more gay parties and "spreads" than the 1:00 o'clock aristocracy. On one particular occasion, Mr. Teal having expressed his contempt for the numerous cook books devoted to prunes, the 12:00 o'clock girls gave him a surprise luncheon of stewed, stuffed and raw prunes, greatly to his discomfiture. Frank, our bowlegged page, enlivened many a lunch with his unconscious humor, especially when he expatiated on the charms of the twins recently added to his family circle.

Are these last trivial reminiscences? Perhaps so, but the tie between the members of the small, compact staff was affectionately close; to be a "Crerarite" was the proudest boast of each of us, from the Librarian to the smallest page, and the devotion of each to his particular task started a tradition which some of us can never forget.

## VII

### *Books*



Apart from the general reference collection, which of urgent necessity must be kept up to date as far as possible, our accessions from year to year always were an important problem which kept the Librarian and his advisers on their mettle. New books, especially on subjects rapidly growing and changing in content and manner of treatment, always are in some demand, and their selection is complicated by the often simultaneous publication of books on identical subjects but by different authors and with varying imprints. In many cases the name of an author decides the case selection; perhaps in as many, the publisher's name indicates the purchase. New subjects, or combinations of subjects, likewise. The Librarian never knows when he has met the legitimate and expected demand, but experience and a wakeful awareness of the reference librarian's problems will help the situation. A necessary balance of judgment and sympathy also comes into play. It is only too seductive for a librarian to play up to a popular or temporary taste in the hope of giving satisfaction to the casual reader. It is equally a temptation for a librarian to purchase extensively what falls within his personal field of study, where his experience is useful and profitable to his institution; and this can be done without loss of balance if a general equilibrium is maintained. Remarkable collections have developed that way, but the practice cannot be recommended.

But even without the many contingent influences unavoid-

ably operating in almost any library the proper, i.e., the logical increases from year to year, resulting in the keeping of set proportions and a harmonious growth of the entity, are far from easy to determine without some fixed rule or formula or a constant, so to speak, which will act like a gyroscope. The Book Committee early in our history adopted such a regulator. It was Mr. Andrews' idea, he was proud of it, and he rarely was tempted to set it aside. It was this: New accessions are determined by the *use* of existing collections and are acquired in the same general proportion.

We established for several necessary statistical purposes six large groups of subjects as components of our scope: General works, the social sciences, the physical sciences, the natural sciences, the medical sciences, the applied sciences. Our reading room statistics would show (by the call slips) the absolute recorded use of each group. The figures naturally would vary somewhat each year. Four examples are shown below:

	1898			
	Total Use	Per- centage	Total in Library	Per- centage
General Works	5357	24	11,880	21
Social Sciences	3361	15	13,569	25
Physical "	3068	13	8,582	16
Natural "	1770	8	7,625	13
Applied "	7024	40	13,567	25

This table shows that the collections still were indefinitely balanced.

	1928		1927 Accessions	
	Total Use	Per- centage	Total	Per- centage
General Works	31,321	13	1650	14
Social Sciences	52,125	21	3768	28
Physical "	27,739	12	873	8
Natural "	17,827	8	984	9

Medical	"	46,219	20	1935	16
Applied	"	68,451	26	2995	25
<i>1932</i>					
		<i>Total</i>	<i>Per-</i>		<i>Per-</i>
		<i>Use</i>	<i>centage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>centage</i>
General Works		50,084	14	500	9
Social Sciences		71,296	20	1256	22
Physical	"	50,709	14	463	9
Natural	"	21,202	6	733	12
Medical	"	69,688	19	1139	21
Applied	"	108,040	27	1755	27
<i>1940</i>					
		<i>Total</i>	<i>Per-</i>		<i>Per-</i>
		<i>Use</i>	<i>centage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>centage</i>
General Works		37,000	11	922	14
Social Sciences		70,000	19	1387	17
Physical	"	60,000	17	619	8
Natural	"	25,000	8	657	8
Medical	"	58,000	16	1394	17
Applied	"	104,000	29	2684	36

The results are measured, of course, by the total numbers of volumes in the Library, for each of the six groups. The accessions, themselves, might vary somewhat — even up to 10% — from year to year. In 1899 the accessions percentages were 22-28-11-11-28 (the medical sciences were not yet within our scope). In 1940 the corresponding figures ran: 14-29-7-9-17-24, while the *use* indicated: 11-19-17-8-16-29 (see above). The flexibility of the method, within limits, is admitted.

The cost of the accessions is an entirely different question. In 1898 the 13 percent increase in natural science accessions cost the Library more than three times as much as the 25 percent increase in the social science group. In 1940 the 612 current medical periodicals cost one hundred Dollars more than the 1139 periodicals in the applied science group.

In many cases purchases were made in response to calls by readers or by requests for interlibrary loans. But before 1930 we economized consistently on compilations of all kinds, text books, hand books, etc., books which rapidly grow old and are replaced by new ones. Monographs, solid treatises and original, authoritative works, were our first care, and because many such books rapidly went out of print — sometimes before we had a chance to order them or before our orders were effected — and never were reprinted, they now have become important holdings. Time and again we bought originals in foreign languages only to find that a short time later a translation in English, much more welcome, would appear. But of course no language was barred, essential qualities being admitted. Many readers and even scholars would take it for granted that we discarded older editions when new and improved ones would appear, yet this never has been practiced, even though it might have proved economical. But the fact is that in library practice the books which have gone out of active or continued use often acquire an historical interest, and nobody can decide — or presumes to decide — when any book actually may be considered dead, because any moment some inquiry may reveal that somebody needs it, which is a definite sign of life. Furthermore, it occurs not infrequently that important discoveries or discussions, or casual revelations of deep interest, or even arguments over inventions and patents, are based upon, or involved with, editions of books which the librarian off-hand would consider irrelevant and negligible. Even the advertising announcements in older books, or the ubiquitous advertisements in periodicals, are called upon for such evidence. In earlier years we conscientiously bound into their original place all such advertisements, but this was abandoned when the cost grew out of all proportion. As if the editors hungered to revenge this insult they proceeded to intermingle legitimate text and advertising notices throughout their production, which threw pains and burdens upon those in charge of collations and

binding, but happily this variety theater style of a make-up affects but a minority of our current professional periodicals.

The mass of annual accessions in the early years was very large and led to voluminous arrears in the hands of cataloguers and classifiers, but every book once acquired would always be accessible. Accessions had special shelving, were arranged by accession numbers and represented by cards in the official catalogue — only their accessibility depended upon the author's name being known by the person making a request for any of them. During the last twelve years the number of annual accessions has been reduced greatly in comparison with that of previous times. The reasons were several. In the first place, a reference library of the Crerar's scope, having grown above a half million volumes and having the character of a selected library, naturally no longer would need very large masses of either old or new books or even of periodicals. In the second place, although we might at any time add a million volumes which we did not already possess, in an effort toward completion, such a procedure would alter our status from that of well-considered selection to blind accumulation, which is not an unusual status here and there at the present time. However, it must be confessed that in 1930 there not only were on our hands more than 10,000 arrears awaiting treatment by the cataloguers, but some of these arrears had been twenty and more years in our hands. This was neither appalling nor unusual in rapidly growing institutions, where new and active books take precedence over less important accessions. But in addition we had about a hundred thousand titles selected for purchase, and these dated back as far as the arrears. Some would be picked out and ordered on occasion, but the remainder had been, and must be, disregarded under the pressure of the ever-increasing mass of other and of new books claiming consideration. The writer found it necessary, under the authority of the Book Committee, to clear up the old arrears of books and to turn our face to the future in abandoning the old selected titles as no longer available

from any valid point of view. Since then we have entertained no arrears, and we have modified our policy of purchase except for new and live books in demand by our readers, for *periodicals*, and, of course, for logical desiderata generally.



After 1920 a change came over our patrons. Until then we had been definitely a reference library within specified limits. We had taken part sparingly in the interlibrary loan convention then in rapid development under the pressure of the country's industrial growth and the increasing use of the requisite literature everywhere. Scientific and technical *work* had progressed farther than the ordinary libraries could support with their reference material. Here, at home, we were appealed to by the younger generation taking part in fresh forms of work and study—I was mindful then of Mr. T. B. Blackstone's prophecy in 1895 about the Library helping young people to earn their bread and butter. We were obliged to meet this demand, because it was met in our special way by nobody else in Chicago. We already had had a taste of this in 1907, when our medical reference work began to take shape and students made inroads where scholars until then had had things their own way. The scholars stayed with us, but their younger contemporaries gradually preferred their demands and expectations, which it would have been folly to refuse or to disregard. I believe that all other Chicago libraries had similar experience and, like ourselves, continued to have them. Books and periodicals in reasonable response to this demand were gradually provided, and our statistics of use rose in proportion. It was an interesting experience.

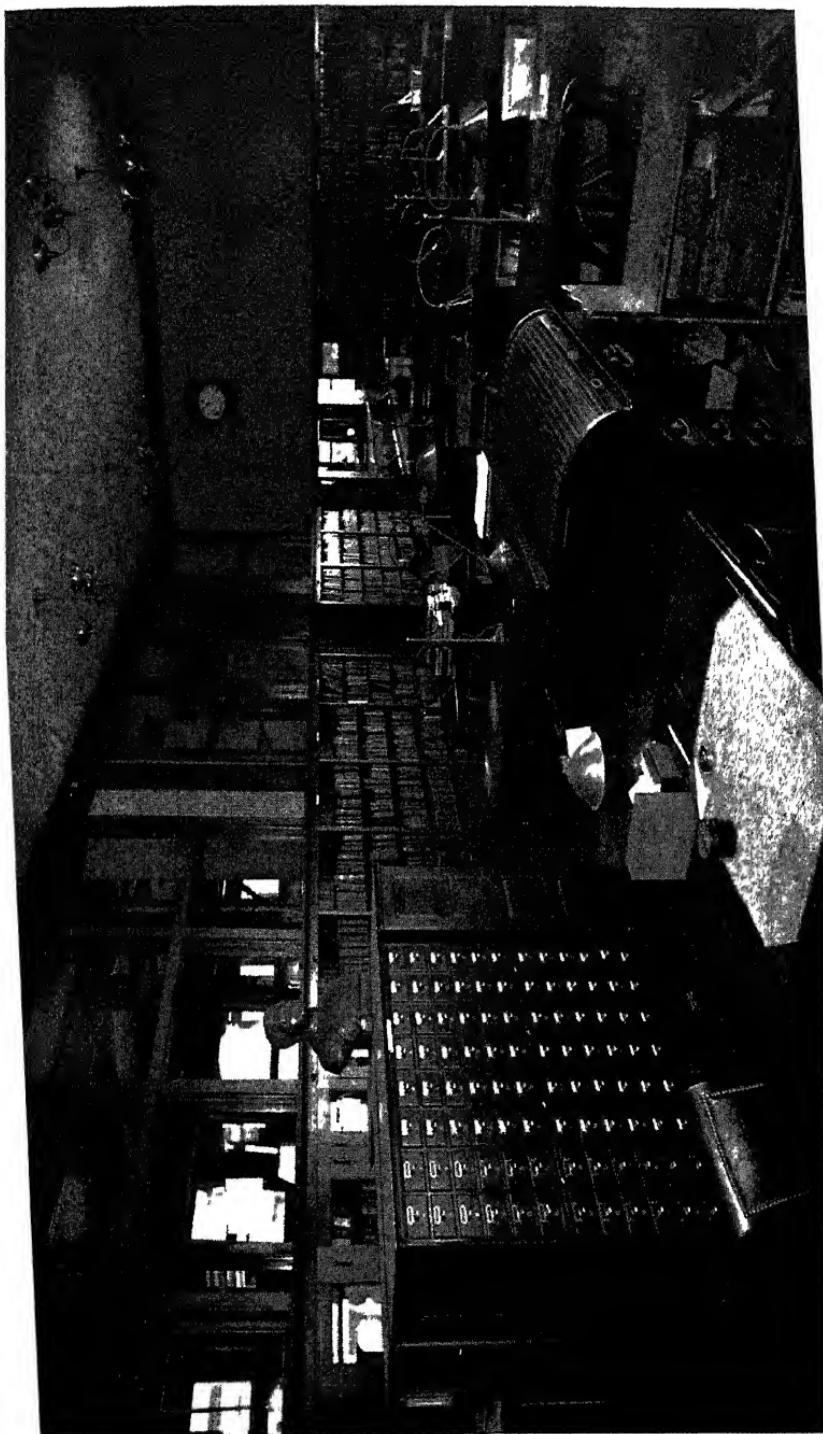
Just as interesting was the growth of our participation in the interlibrary loan agreement, but that belongs in another chapter.

In 1906 the rapidly growing medical institutions in the city and the surrounding area voiced the necessity of having

the medical collection then part of the Newberry Library, joined with the biological, chemical and other related material at the Crerar. This medical library had been developed gradually by groups and individuals aware of the need of a central, up-to-date literary center of medical reference work. Modern medicine approached the Crerar's scope more closely than that of the Newberry. The previous history of their holdings does not pertain here, but these holdings, the sum of many gifts and some sacrifice by interested medical men in the City, had been well organized and opened to the public. From time to time large gifts had been added to these collections by Dr. Nicholas Senn and others. Dr. Senn had purchased personally several private libraries of well-known medical scholars. The result of negotiations between the trustees of the two libraries was that we purchased what the Newberry previously had bought, especially of sets of periodicals and monographs, an excellent collection in itself, while Dr. Senn consented to the transfer to the Crerar of his very large contributions. We then undertook to open a medical reference room, acquired the necessary space on the fifth floor of the building on Wabash Ave., for an extension of our stack space, and commenced to build up and catalogue the added department.

This was a felicitous arrangement. It served to round out the scope of both libraries. About the same time the Newberry yielded some border-line material desirable for students of natural history. It deserves mention that everything we ever received from the Newberry proved well selected if not indeed of basic importance to us.

The early history of the medical library movement in Chicago was written by Dr. Bayard Holmes in *Medical Life* vol. 31, p. 281-288 (1924). See also Dr. Isaac A. Abt, in the *Bulletin* of the Medical Library Association vol. 22, p. 71-74 (1933).—Dr. Holmes and several of his contemporaries did praiseworthy work and shouldered many burdens in organizing the interest in adequate medical library facilities in Chicago's earlier days.





In time other medical libraries (the Illinois and Chicago University Medical schools, the Northwestern University Medical School, the Medical School of Loyola University) increased from small beginnings in proportion to the rapidly growing and perfected medical organization in Chicago and Cook County. These libraries, and that of Rush Medical College, necessary for the faculties and students of these schools, have grown apace with the Crerar, but all are in close touch with us and we mutually supplement one another. This cooperation was emphasized by the establishment in 1935 and following years of the *Union Medical Catalogue*, in which all accessions in our medical sister-libraries are recorded. It is arranged by authors and available to the public in our medical reference room. The expenses were generously assumed by the Institute of Medicine of Chicago.



President Williams wisely (on December 8, 1894) gave the following advise to his colleagues on the Board: "I do not sympathize with the suggestion that only the newest and latest publications be selected. Such a library would have neither beginning nor end. The student, every student, requires and demands a knowledge of the history of the subject he pursues and should have at hand the means of investigation from beginnings."

The Book Committee, the Librarian and the successive staff officers always were convinced of the permanent validity of these principles. From the beginning, some cognizance was made of the classical works in all fields, and they were acquired when occasion occurred. It was not a question of a first edition cult as practiced by private collectors. It was meeting the need of clear visions and conceptions of origins, of fundamental researches, original statements, transcendent views and theories. It was the necessity of supporting history by documents. It goes without saying that modern conclusions and presentations, such as govern general studies

of this day and age, craved a prominent place, and often a first place in the Library. Philosophy in many ways implies the history of philosophy, and economics is suspended in air unless liberally supported by documents. The natural and physical sciences increasingly are studied by the historical method.

Year by year we observed the demands of the times for late and authoritative information, occasionally adding works of earlier times. Before very long (1911) the Library felt strong enough to print in book form a list of books on the history of science. It was received with acclamation all over the world, and a supplement followed (1917). A second supplement now (1944) is in progress of publication. The first list was followed (1915) by a similar list of books on the history of the industrial arts, and this was supplemented, much later, by one and another of our numbered reference lists.

Many classics are represented in the Library by copies which came to us in collections acquired as a whole by purchase or gift, others were selected and purchased individually. These are not necessarily old books, books of former centuries. Many are of relatively recent date. They are now protected in various ways, by enclosure in slip cases and by special shelving in locked cases, but all are available to responsible readers.

The steady development of research centers everywhere during the period of our history, and the race among some libraries and private collectors for the possession of originals of rare, celebrated and intrinsically valuable books, at length resulted in a condition where such acquisitions were progressively prohibitive except to large capital. At first this situation affected mostly the humanities, general literature, or authors of special interest. Later on, the classics in our field also came under the observation of booksellers and speculators well versed in the history of science and technology. Hundreds of books which begged for purchasers fifty or sixty years ago, gradually became objects of

financial exploitation, like bonds and stocks, and prices grew prohibitive, so that anastatic reprints or offsets, facsimiles, etc., no longer sufficed, and Providence, in her mercy, was obliged to indicate microfilms as a help in need. This was fortunate, it incidentally gave rise to a new minor industry, but it did not reduce the speculative prices of rare works cornered by expert booksellers of a new school, in whose hands the less experienced librarians, who were not brought up on, or had not turned grey with the perusal of book catalogues, often were like putty.

Incunabula of indifferent contents then as now might be obtained by the shipload from Europe, especially as war loot, but incunabula and other early books of importance, and to which scholars return time and again, call for knowledge in selection and sagacity in purchasing. As for these rare sources, we now are more often surprised at what we possess than at what we have not yet acquired. We have watched in later decennia how desirable and fine works, offered at high prices, are shifted from country to country, offered again — and at last, during war times, when money is plentiful, are transferred to international agents in New York, as if the last chance of purchase now indeed had come. The transit of these agents was from central and Western Europe to London, and then to New York, where copies of the Nuremberg Chronicle seem on hand in such numbers that the streets might be paved with them. The bookish treasures rendered homeless by the Russian revolution came into commercial circles by way of Switzerland and Italy to London, with corresponding increases in sale prices at each stage. Portugal's book and manuscript treasures went into the trade by way of London.

The last international bookseller of the old school, animated by the spirit of service and not of exploitation, was the veteran Johannes R. Loewe, who honored the Library with a personal visit in 1935 and procured for us a long anticipated desideratum, a complete set, with the original plates, of Hübner's inimitable works on butterflies.

The survey, year by year, of important acquisitions given below, illustrates but incompletely the increments of our collections and their potentialities. Like many of our sister-libraries, we benefited by absorbing wholly or in part a number of private collections assembled by persons to whom scientific research was the first consideration. The *Gerritsen* Collection, from Holland, indeed was a find, important by its broad scope (economics, social science) and the completeness of pertinent groups of pamphlets, especially British and French, of earlier centuries, its wealth of pertinent public documents. Another private library acquired as a unit was that of Prof. Richard T. *Ely*, of Wisconsin. Many important monographs on natural history came from the *Milne-Edwards* sales in Paris, including sets of periodicals. American economic pamphlets came from the David H. *Mason* library, fine entomological material from that of the veteran Illinois naturalist Wm. *LeBaron*. Then came the *Wiedemann* collection on electricity, the East-Asiatic collections assembled for us by Dr. Berthold Laufer and later transferred to the Library of Congress by sale. After the responsibility for medical sciences had been transferred to us, the *Nicholas Senn* collections, including the private libraries of *Baum* (rich in historical works on medicine and biology), *Meissner*, *Tiedemann*, and others, filled out our holdings desirably.

No wonder that during the period 1905 and 1910 we calculated having accumulated about 75,000 volumes in our arrears awaiting technical treatment. All, except some groups of pamphlets, were, however, available by author references in the official catalogue.

In 1919 we acquired from the famous bookseller and bibliographer, Wilhelm Junk, his holdings of about 100,000 miscellaneous pieces (books, pamphlets, separates), unspecified but covering the natural and physical sciences. Some time later we took an opportunity to develop our holdings in horology. Later complements of notable works on this interesting subject were secured by occasional opportunity.

As time passed, the Library became too large to benefit by the purchase of entire private collections, unless they were very limited in scope. Many such, or at least selections from them, came, however, to us as gifts. Mr. Robert Forsyth's collection was one. It brought to us some very important technical reports, several privately printed, on researches in connection with the steel industry, and many books of more general interest. Through Col. John A. Holabird we received a very large collection, the general portion of General Holabird's personal library, with the privilege of selecting what we should find useful, the remainder to be distributed among smaller libraries of whose needs we were aware. We selected about 600 volumes for the Crerar and distributed the available portion of the rest as agreed.

Various smaller collections of books or pamphlets, or both, from estates, or friends and patrons, were very useful in providing fine reading editions of books on philosophy, science, sociology, finance, technology, economics, literary biography; and the surplus was distributed among various Illinois college libraries.



During the whole life of our Library we reported from year to year our important and noteworthy accessions. Except for librarians, scholars and others interested in such enumerations, these lists, and the notes accompanying them, may not afford ready reading, still this is the only way of communicating facts of this kind. Many of our holdings continue to surprise our patrons until they have been informed specifically about them. We cannot keep a school of book knowledge; exhibits of books on a large scale is not within our province. We do not directly educate, we demonstrate in reply to questions asked, or in response to interest shown.

We quote here from our reports what we deem important as demonstrating the direction of the library as

following its designed plans. The accounts of the procedure in acquiring some of the special collections also afford some interest.

1898

Three of the purchases deserve special mention. One is the collection of ornithological works obtained of the Newberry Library. There were three hundred volumes in the collection, for which we paid \$4,500. It included a fine copy of Audubon's *Birds of America*, elephant folio edition; several volumes of Gould's monographs; Selby's *Illustrations of British Ornithology*; and other costly works. The second notable purchase is a copy of Humboldt and Bonpland's *Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du nouveau continent*, in twenty-nine volumes, quarto and folio. The third was made at the sale of the Boncompagni library in Rome. Three cases have been received already, and more are hoped for, as the sale is not yet completed. The works obtained from this sale will greatly strengthen the department of Physical Sciences, especially in the subject of Mathematics.

While practically all purchases, including the remainder of the Newberry books not duplicates, have been entered on the books, there remain to be entered two or three hundred government documents, a large number of incomplete serials from the Western Society of Engineers, and several cases of municipal documents. These last have been obtained in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Indianapolis by Mr. George E. Hooker. Only those who know by experience the difficulty of obtaining these documents except as they are issued can appreciate the benefit to the library of Mr. Hooker's services.

1899

Among the purchases which deserve special mention are a set of Muybridge's *Animal Locomotion*; a selec-

tion of some 350 volumes and pamphlets mostly on industrial art from the library of the late Anatole Montaiglon, bought at auction; and a rearrangement of the entries of the publications of societies in the Acces-sions Catalogue of the British Museum. This last was edited and printed photographically by the Newberry Library, and is interesting for the novelty of its method as well as useful for its contents.

### 1900

The more notable purchases of the year include a set of *Biologia Centrali-Americanana*, bought of Quaritch; sets of *Palaeontographica* and the publications of the Palaeontographical Society; and a considerable collection of sets of English engineering periodicals, bought of Batsford.

### 1901

The most notable purchases of the year are those from the Milne-Edwards library, including Schreber, *Säugethiere*; Blainville, *Ostéographie*; Dresser, *Birds of Europe*; Gould, *Birds of Asia*, *Birds of Australia*, *Birds of New Guinea*, and *Icones avium*; *Paléontologie française*; Pictet, *Matériaux pour la paléontologie Suisse*; and many complete sets, among them, *Ibis*, *Stray Feathers*, *Mémoires de la Société Paléontologique Suisse*, and the publications of the Museums of Natural History at Paris, Genoa, and Cambridge, Mass. Besides these may be mentioned a collection of works on Chicago and Illinois, including a number of early Chicago documents; *Diccionario enciclopédico hispano-americano*; a set of Paris municipal documents and reports; *Statistique générale de la France*; Reynaud, *Travaux publics de la France*; and Saccardo, *Sylloge fungorum*. Many sets of serials have been completed, including *Globus*, *Fort-nightly Review*, *Archivio per l'antropologia*, *Annales du Bureau Central Météorologique*, and the *Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society*.

The most notable purchase of the year, indeed of any year, has been that of the collection of Professor *Richard T. Ely* of the University of Wisconsin. It covers the whole of political economy, but is especially strong in works dealing with the American labor and social movement. It comprises some 4,000 volumes, 600 of them being bound volumes of labor periodicals, and some 4,000 pamphlets. At present it is stored in the forty cases which it fills, awaiting the decision of the Board as to its treatment. Unfortunately the limited space in the present quarters prevents any display of the collection until the work of entering on the accession books and of classification has been done. At the best it will be a long time before all of it can be made available, but if an assistant is especially assigned to the work not only will progress be swifter, but better provision can be made for the selection of material for immediate treatment.

The third portion of the Milne-Edwards collection, sold in Paris in May, did not prove to be as valuable as the others, and no fourth sale has taken place or is announced. Consequently only \$2,300 of the special appropriation was used. This amount secured 207 lots, comprising 559 volumes. Only 17 bids were lost. While relatively unimportant, the purchase adds considerably to the strength of the library on invertebrate zoölogy. Of the individual works from the second and third portions of the Milne-Edwards collection may be mentioned Pictet, *Descriptions des fossiles du terrain crétacé*, and sets of *Paléontologie française*, *Mission scientifique à Méxique*, *Annales de la Société entomologique de France*, and *Journal de conchyliologie*. From other sources were obtained an interesting collection of books in Japanese, some of them old and rare, on the native art of floral arrangement, and the *Journal of the execu-*

tive proceedings of the United States Senate, Durm's *Handbuch der Architektur*, and Martius, *Flora Brasiliensis*. Many sets of serials have been completed, including the *Saturday Review*, *Chicago Journal of Commerce*, *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*, *Journal für praktische Chemie*, *Flora*, *Annales scientifiques de l'Ecole normale supérieure*, *Gazzetta chimica italiana*, and a set of the Memoirs of the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences from 1770.

#### 1903

All other purchases of the year are insignificant besides that of the collection on social sciences bought through Mr. Truelove. While not a few of the 18,000 volumes and 13,000 pamphlets must be duplicated in the collection now in the library, still, the report submitted to the Directors makes it certain that the purchase has anticipated the work of years, and has secured much material which might not again be offered. However, the decision to purchase was made so late in the year that no extended mention of it can be made now. Of the single purchases the most important is the Archaeology of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, completing the work to date. Many sets of periodicals have been completed, among them *Journal of the Institute of Bankers*, *Bankers' Magazine*, *Deutscher Vierteljahrsschrift für öffentliche Gesundheitspflege*, *Botanical Register*, *Entomologist*, *Memoirs and Records of the Geological Survey of India*, *Amateur Photographer*, *Annales de Mathématiques pures et appliquées*, *Transport*, *Zeitschrift für Bauwesen*, *Mathematical Questions*, *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, *Landwirtschaftliche Jahrbücher*, *Atti della R. Accademia di Scienze* (of Naples), and *Spectator* (from 1832).

#### 1904

In the last report brief mention was made of the purchase of a large collection on the Social Sciences through

Mr. Truelove, of London. It may be said now that it was formed by Mr. *C. V. Gerritsen* of Amsterdam, recently a member of the States General of the Netherlands, and for many years a member of the Town Council of Amsterdam. It was twenty-five years in formation and reflects his interests and tastes, being especially strong in the subjects of finance, labor, socialism, and general sociology. While it contains many old and rare items, it is not of such great value on this account as on account of its fullness. Its purchase may be said to have anticipated those which the library would naturally have made in the next ten years, and in addition to have secured quite a number of items which might not come into the market again for a long time, if at all. It is not practicable to note separate items, but mention may be made of remarkably complete sets of the Proceedings of the States General, and of the Amsterdam Town Council; of a large amount of material relating to John Law and the Mississippi Bubble, and on early French Socialism.

Included in the library was a notable collection on the social, political and legal status of woman; begun by Mrs. Gerritsen (Dr. Aletta H. Jacobs). A catalogue of this collection, complete to 1900, was exhibited at the Paris Exposition of that year, and received a diploma of honor. A number of copies of this catalogue will be presented to libraries interested in the subject.

According to the synopsis, the whole collection contained 18,000 volumes and 13,000 pamphlets, divided approximately as follows:

	<i>Volumes</i>	<i>Pamphlets</i>
General Works .....	4,450	600
Statistics .....	350	550
Political Science .....	400	450
Political Economy .....	8,400	7,800
Public Law and Administration	1,700	600
Woman Question .....	2,700	3,000

Professor H. S. Foxwell, of Cambridge, examined it for the Library and strongly advised its purchase. The slip catalogue was sent over and compared with that of the Library. The duplication was less than had been feared, amounting only to about 2,200 volumes. These were removed by the Librarian before the collection was packed, and were sold abroad. With the proceeds and with the balance of the appropriation there were obtained a selection of British Parliamentary Papers and a notable collection of early French documents on economic subjects, and several important sets of periodicals on various subjects. The main collection filled 122 boxes, weighing in all seventeen tons. It was duly received the latter part of May, and sent to the Newberry Library, where it has been opened and made partly available to scholars by means of its own author catalogue and a rough subject arrangement on shelves. Already 6,040 volumes have been accessioned, and it is hoped that the work of classification and cataloguing can be begun soon. During the recent meeting of the American Economic Association the Library received many congratulations on these acquisitions.

Naturally the other purchases of the year seem insignificant besides these; still the purchases of *a collection of Illinois documents running back nearly to the beginning*, of a collection of technical and trade journals, and of a set of the *Systematisches Conchylien-Cabinet*, by Martini and Chemnitz, are worth mentioning. A number of sets of periodicals have been completed. Among these, including those obtained abroad by the Librarian, are: the publications of the *Hollandsche Maatschappij* of Haarlem, *Manifesto* (Shakers), *Revue d'entomologie*, *Revue et magasin de zoologie*, *Der Tropenpflanzer*, *Anales del Museo de La Plata*, *Annales industrielles*, *Handelsmuseum*, *Journal des chemins de fer*, *Gewerbehalle*, *Revue internationale de l'électricité*, *Abhandlungen zur geologischen Spezialkarte von Preus-*

*sen, Repertorium der analytischen Chemie, Pädagogisches Magazin, Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Annales du commerce extérieur.*

The Library acquired in 1904, from a bookseller in Leipzig, an extensive collection of acts, ordinances, documents and pamphlets of the 16th to the 18th century, treating of the economic and social affairs of France and its colonies.

Of the origin of the collection nothing was known, but as the manuscript notes found here and there on the title-pages, and the titles on the wrappers for the several divisions are in French and in a distinctly French handwriting, it is probable that the collection was made by a French government official with unusual facilities for acquiring official printed matter and who, perhaps, emigrated after the outbreak of the Revolution, as no document is found from that period.

The collection proved of such interest to students of French administration that the Directors authorized the issue of a catalogue in 1918. This catalogue is based upon a printed list which accompanied the collection, and which gives several divisions and subdivisions. In reprinting the list every title was compared with the original; in many cases the titles were amplified; collations and imprints with typographical peculiarities, capitalization, etc., of the other list were, in the main, followed.

The collection contains 1471 pieces and is bound in twenty-five volumes, arranged as in the list.

The serial numbers correspond with similar numbers on the documents.

### 1905

The most important purchase of the year was a collection of 130 volumes of the publications of E. Was-muth, Berlin, on industrial and decorative art. These were bought of the Municipal Museum of Chicago,

which obtained them, with other material, at St. Louis, where they had been exhibited. Apart from minor serials, the only notable purchases were a set of *Leonardo Da Vinci's* works in 28 volumes; a set of the *Printed Papers of the Essayons Club* (U. S. Corps of Engineers); a small collection of rare early pamphlets on American railroads; and a small but valuable collection on entomology from the library of the late Wm. LeBaron. The list of files of serials completed includes: *Acta Horti Petropolitani*, *Atti della Accademia pontificia romana dei nuovi Lincei*, *Atti della Accademia delle scienze di Napoli*, *Bibliophile Belge*, *Bijdragen tot de statistiek van Nederland*, *Feuille des jeunes naturalistes*, *Jernkontorets Annaler*, *Journal des économistes*, *Svensk tidskrift*, *Voice*, *Zoologische Jahrbücher*, and a set of official documents of the Netherlands on railroads.

### 1906

The regular purchases of the year are insignificant in comparison with that of the Medical Department of the Newberry Library. Still, there may be mentioned a collection of 388 volumes and pamphlets on the municipality of Amsterdam, assembled for the Library by the late C. V. Gerritsen; a selection of pamphlets on American economic history from the library of the late David H. Mason; a set of all topographical maps of the United States Geological Survey in print; and of individual works, a complete set, to date, of *Grandidier's Madagascar*, and the copy of the State Register. The list of files of serials completed includes: *Allgemeines Garten-Magazin*, *American architect*, *Antiquarian magazine*, *Archiv der naturwissenschaftlichen Landesdurchforschung von Böhmen*, *Archiv der Pharmazie*, *Archiv für Geschichte des Deutschen Buchhandels*, *Beiträge zur Statistik des Herzogthums Braunschweig*, *Chemisch-technisches Repertorium*, *Electricien*, *Entomologische Nachrichten*, *Ingenieur*, *Inland architect*, *Moniteur sci-*

entifique, Mémoires de la Société des sciences de la Creuse, Naturhistorisk tidsskrift, Philadelphia photographer, Railway magazine, Telegrapher.

1907

No single purchase of great monetary value has been made, the most important being the botanical part of Gay's *Historia fisica y politica de Chile* and a set of *Deutsch-Ost-Afrika*. On the other hand, a rather unusual number of sets of serials have been completed, among which may be mentioned: *Annuaire du Musée Zoologique* (St. Petersburg), *Arbeiter-Versorgung*, *Botaniska notiser*, *Denkschriften der K. botanischen Gesellschaft in Regensburg*, *Farmer's magazine*, *Milch-Zeitung*, *Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburg*, *Sitzungsberichte der K. Akademie der Wissenschaften* (Vienna), sets of the journals of the British Patent Office and of the statistical publications of the Netherlands; and many medical periodicals, including *Archiv für Psychiatrie*, *Bulletins et mémoires de la Société anatomique de Paris*, *Comptes rendus de la Société de biologie*, *Congrès international de médecine*, *Gegenbaurs Morphologisches Jahrbuch*, *Schweizerische Wochenschrift für Chemie und Pharmacie*.

1908

The only single purchase of considerable value, other than sets of periodicals, was that of a collection of some 4,500 pamphlets on electricity from the library of the late Dr. Gustav Wiedemann, of Leipzig. While the collection contains many reprints, it contains also many monographs, and will form, when catalogued and classified, a most desirable addition to the literature on a very important subject. The number of sets of periodicals completed was again noticeably large. Among them may be mentioned: *Actes de l'Académie de Bordeaux*, *Actes de la Société Linnéenne de Bordeaux*, *Aéronaute*,

*Allgemeine Bauzeitung, Annalen der K. K. Sternwarte in Wien, Archiv des Vereins der Freunde der Naturgeschichte in Mecklenburg, Bonplandia, Bulletin van het Koloniaalmuseum te Haarlem, Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal, Centralblatt für praktische Augenheilkunde, Entomologische Zeitung (Stettin), Gaea, Giornale Italiano delle malattie venere, Hedwigia, Journal für Chemie und physik, Maatschappij Diligentia Natuurkundige voordrachten, Mémoires de la Société d'histoire naturelle (Metz), Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien, Monetary times of Toronto, Naturforscher, Natuurkundig tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Indie, Outing, Oversigt over det K. Danske Videnskabernes selskabs Forhandlinger, Photographische Mitteilungen, Proceedings and Transactions of the West London Medico-chirurgical Society, Revue mensuelle de l'Ecole d'anthropologie, Rigasche Industrie-Zeitung, Tijdschrift voor entomologie, Transactions of the Dermatological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Transactions of the Royal Society of Victoria, Zeitschrift für das gesammte Local- & Strassenbahnwesen, a collection of British meteorological journals, a complete set of the Australian parliamentary publications, and a large number of state publications.*

1909

Among the purchases of the year several require special mention. The first in time of receipt is a collection of some 4,500 volumes in the Chinese, Japanese, Manchurian, Mongolian, and Thibetan languages secured for the Library by Dr. Berthold Laufer of the Field Museum of Natural History. Dr. Laufer bought for the Newberry Library as well as for The John Crerar Library, and kept in mind the division of field between the two. The books already received were bought in Pekin, and another consignment is expected when Dr. Laufer returns from Thibet, to include his purchases in that

country. As yet this purchase is not available, but awaits the decision of the Directors as to the best method of treating it.

The second notable purchase is that of the private library of Dr. *August Martin*, of Greifswald and Berlin, comprising some 8,000 volumes and 4,000 pamphlets on gynecology and obstetrics. This collection was begun in 1830 by the father, Dr. Eduard Martin, of Jena and Berlin. It is rich in the earlier literature of its subjects. While there is considerable duplication, as a whole it materially strengthens the Library.

The third purchase is a complete set, lacking six volumes, of the *Atti* and *Rendiconti* of the Italian Parliament from 1848 to date, a collection of 700 quarto volumes. So complete a set is rare, and its purchase makes a valuable addition to the collection of government documents.

[This set was transferred to the University of Chicago Library in 1931, as a gift, in our effort to meet their desire of assuming responsibility for public documents in the Chicago area.]

Besides these may be mentioned the purchase of the *Description de l'Egypte* and the *Reise der Oesterreichischen Fregatte Novara*. The sets of periodicals completed include: *Annalen des K. K. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums* (Vienna), *Annales de la science agronomique*, *Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden* (Calcutta), *Beiträge zur Anthropologie und Urgeschichte Bayerns*, *Bibliotheca medica*, *Bulletin de la Société française de physique*, *Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana*, *Det Kongelige Danske videnskabernes selskabs Skrifter*, *Hunt's Yachting Magazine*, *Memorie della R. Accademia di Scienze* (Modena), *Mitteilungen des Statistischen Amtes der Stadt München*, *Nuovo giornale botanico italiano*, *Proceedings of the Medical Society of London*, *Rivista internazionale di scienze sociali*, *Transactions of the Chesterfield and Derbyshire Institute of*

*Mining Engineers, Transactions of the British Association of Water Works, Transactions of the N. E. Coast Institute of Engineers, Vierteljahrsschrift der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft Zurich*, the publications of the *Circolo matematico* of Palermo, and of the Great *Trigonometrical Survey of India*; and 230 volumes of miscellaneous United States documents were purchased to fill gaps.

1910

There is but one considerable purchase to be noted. Dr. *Berthold Laufer* has finished his purchase of works in the languages of Eastern Asia. From his report the following facts are taken. The collection made for this Library consists of 825 works in 14,055 volumes, selected with regard to the scope of the Library and distributed as follows: General Works, 363, Social Sciences, 274; Physical Sciences, 31; Natural Sciences, 38; Medical Sciences, 95; Applied Sciences, 24. As to language, 655 are Chinese, 74 Japanese, 22 Manchurian, 15 Thibetan, 3 Mongol, and 56 in other languages. Of manuscripts there are four and of early printed books 48; the oldest is a medical work of the 12th century. Taken together with the collection of about equal size made for the Newberry Library in the subjects within its field, the total is, in Dr. Laufer's opinion, worthy to rank with the European collections of Chinese literature. No definite plans for the utilization of these works can be made at present, but it is probable that a joint catalogue will be issued.

Rather more than the usual number of sets of periodicals have been completed. Among them are: *Annales de l'Observatoire de Bordeaux*, *Anales de la Sociedad española de historia natural*, *Archiv für experimentelle Pathologie*, *Archiv für Psychiatrie*, *L'Astronomie*, *British Medical Journal*, *Boletim annual da Sociedade Broteriana*, *Bullettino della Società Toscana di orticul-*

tura, *Der chemische Ackermann*, *Centralblatt für die gesammte Therapie*, *Jahrbuch der praktischen Medicin*, *Jahrbuch des Naturhistorischen Landesmuseums zu Kärnten*, *Mémoires de l'Académie des sciences morales et politiques* (Paris), *Metal Worker*, *Minutes of Proceedings of the Royal Artillery*, *Pharmaceutische Centralhalle*, *Publications de la Société des sciences et arts* (Vitry-le-François), *Vierteljahrsschrift für gerichtliche Medizin*, the publications of the Geological Survey of Sweden, of the Zi-ka-wei Observatory, and of the Observatory at Batavia. The set of Canadian Sessional Papers has been made nearly complete. Many of our western state documents have been received in exchange.

1911

The purchases of the year were greatly affected in character by the experiment already mentioned. Four libraries, Harvard University, Northwestern University, The University of Chicago, and The John Crerar, sent a joint representative to Europe. They were fortunate in securing the services of the Librarian of Northwestern University, Dr. Walter Lichtenstein, who had special qualifications for the task.

Each institution was free to give its commission in the way that seemed to best suit its needs, and in fact no two commissions were in the same terms or covered the same field. While it is understood that the results were satisfactory to all, it is only those affecting this Library which have any place here. A commission amounting to \$5,000 was given with instructions to purchase along four lines: first, out of print books which the Library had tried in vain to obtain from the regular dealers; second, from lists on the ethnology of Eastern Europe furnished by Professor Thomas of the University of Chicago; third, to complete or fill gaps in the sets of serials; fourth, public documents. Important and valuable purchases were made along all these lines: over

100 titles of the first; nearly 100 of the second; more than 50 serials were completed or greatly extended; and quite a number of Italian documents secured. The purchases cover all the departments of the Library and, indeed, most of the individual subjects. The principal object of the experiment was to obtain books which could not be obtained through the regular channels of trade, but it is pleasant to be able to add that, after allowing for all expenses, the purchases were made at less cost than they could have been made through these channels.

As has been stated, more than fifty serials have been completed. It would take too much space to name them all, but among the more important are: *Abhandlungen der Kaiserlich-Königlichen geologischen Reichsanstalt*; *Abhandlungen der mathematisch-physikalischen Classe der königlichen Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*; *Archivio italiano di anatomia*; *Botaniska notiser*; *Bulletin de la Société Belge de géologie*; *Calcutta Journal of Natural History*; *Neue Denkschriften der allgemeinen schweizerischen Gesellschaft*; *Polytechnisches Centralblatt*; *Schriften der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Danzig*.

#### 1912

The Library was fortunate enough to be able to repeat the experiment of cooperative buying in Europe through Dr. Lichtenstein, of Northwestern University. Its commission was for \$4,500, nearly the same amount as in 1911, and on exactly the same lines. The results were equally satisfactory. Dr. Lichtenstein secured for the Library 168 volumes of miscellaneous works; 264 volumes on the ethnology of Eastern Europe; 1,127 volumes to complete or extend the files of 62 periodicals; 204 volumes on the history of science and the industrial arts; and 259 volumes of government documents and publications of international congresses. All of the mis-

cellaneous works and many of the others were out of print or not in trade, and had in previous years been ordered in vain from second-hand dealers. A considerable number were Spanish and South American publications, which are especially hard to obtain. All departments of the Library and nearly all its subjects were represented in the purchases. They were chiefly works of moderate cost, but the facsimile edition of Hübner's *Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge* and a set of the works of Archduke *Ludwig Salvator* were exceptions. The last named are mostly privately printed books, difficult to obtain.

An order has been placed for all German theses, learned school programmes, etc., on all subjects within the scope of the Library, beginning with those of 1912. It is estimated that there will be received about 4,000 a year. Although admittedly of secondary importance occasional ones are very useful and sometimes greatly sought. Their treatment as already outlined will not be a serious burden in proportion to the advantages of having them.

Again it would take too much space to mention all the files of periodicals which have been completed, but among the more important are:

*Anales del Museo nacional de Montevideo, Annales scientifiques, industrielles et statistiques de l'Auvergne, Annali dell Ufficio centrale meteorologico geodinamico italiano, Annuaire de la Société météorologique de France, Mémoires de l'Académie des sciences, lettres et arts d'Arras, Mémoires de l'Académie des sciences, belles-lettres et arts de Clermont-Ferrand, Mémoires de la Société de physique et d'histoire naturelle de Genève, La Naturaleza, Il Nuovo cimento, Papier Zeitung, Rad Jugoslavenska akademija snanosti i umjetnosti, Transactions of the New Zealand Institute, Zeitschrift für Zuckerindustrie in Böhmen.*

1913

Again the Library has been able to join in securing the services of Dr. Lichtenstein, Librarian of Northwestern University, in purchasing books, this time in South America. The circle of cooperating libraries is somewhat larger, and it is hoped that the results will be especially valuable both on account of the increased interest in South America and because of the great difficulty in obtaining works printed there through the regular channels of trade. Dr. Lichtenstein has already bought a large collection in Carácas, which has been sent to Cambridge for distribution, and a smaller one in Bogotá, which has just arrived here.

1914

A small but interesting collection of material distributed at the International Exhibition of the Book Industry at Leipzig was made for the Library by Mr. S. Mortensen, then of Christiania. The larger portion was pamphlet material illustrating the graphic arts but some 25 volumes were included in the accessions of the year.

Other important purchases of the year were a set of the proceedings of the Board of Arbitration in the controversy between the Eastern railways and the Brotherhoods. Silva's *Diccionario bibliographico Portuguez*, a collection in 187 volumes of papers bearing on important patent cases, a collection of 400 items on rapid transit in Boston, a large collection of British documents on education, and smaller collections of the public documents of Venezuela and Tennessee.

Several sets of periodicals have been purchased, among which may be mentioned: *Annalen der Oenologie*, *Annales des travaux publics de Belgique*, the annual volume of the *Institute of Marine Engineers*, *Annuario del R. Istituto botanico di Roma*, *Independent*, *Metaphysical magazine*, *Tidsskrift for nordisk retsmedicin og psykiatri*.

Dr. Lichtenstein issued an interesting account of his South American trip which gave a good insight into the conditions governing and limiting book purchases there. When his collections were distributed in April, The John Crerar Library received, after eliminating duplicates and material not wanted, 1,733 volumes and 2,366 pamphlets. The purchase contained less on science and technology than had been hoped for, but it would appear from Dr. Lichtenstein's experience that little was published in South America on these subjects and still less collected. The purchase does contain much material of use in the study of the social and economic conditions. The total cost, exclusive of transportation, was \$7,679; but this has been reduced already by \$164, and will be still further reduced, from the sale of duplicates held on joint account.

Another very important purchase was a selection of 23 incunabula and one manuscript, dealing with medicine and the natural sciences, from an Italian dealer, at a total cost of \$2,683.71. The manuscript, probably of the 15th century, in contemporary binding, contains a number of medical tracts in Italian, by Guglielmo Varignana. Among the incunabula the following deserve special mention: Plinius' *Historia naturalis*, Venice, Nicolaus Jenson, 1472; the editio princeps of the Latin *Hortus sanitatis*, Mainz, Jacob Meydenbach, 1491; the Latin *Herbarius*, Passau, Johann Petri, 1485; Johannes de Capua's *Directorium humanæ vitæ*, Strassburg, Johann Prüss, about 1488; Voresti's (Bergomensis') *Supplementum chronicorum*, Venice, Bernardinus Benalius, 1486. The last contains one of the earliest statements about the invention of printing. The most interesting acquisitions in this purchase were two small volumes, not hitherto described by any bibliographer, namely Mathiolus' *Tractatus de memoria et de rem-*

*iniscentia*, Padua, Pierre Maufer, about 1474, differing in make-up from the only hitherto known issue of the book printed by Maufer; and Serenus Sammonicus' *Medicinale carmen*, a very curious product, probably emanating from an Italian press, but differing both in make-up and textual matters from the only other known edition of the 15th century, printed by Georg Herolt of Rome, some time during the last decade of that century.

## 1916

Of individual purchases the most important is a copy of Maps illustrating early discovery and exploration in America, 1500-1530 reproduced by photography from the original manuscripts, issued under the direction of Edward Luther Stevenson, New Brunswick, 1903. The maps were selected to illustrate the progress of discovery, the originals are in European libraries, and only 17 other complete copies of the reproductions are known to be available in this country. Other important purchases are: Barrande's *Système silurien*, *Proceedings of the Board of Arbitration in the Western Railways case*, and the *Record of the New York Constitutional Convention*.

Many periodical sets were completed, among which may be mentioned: *Acta eruditorum*, 1682-1774; *Bulletin de la Société de géographie de Lille*; *Kinder-garten review*; *Lightning and the Electrical Times*; *Nationalökonomisk Tidsskrift*; *Paxton's Magazine of Botany*; *Preussische Statistik*; *Proceedings of the Cleveland Institution of Engineers*; *Revue d'hygiène*.

From 1915-16 we are the depository for the collections assembled by the Cremation Association of America under the special care of its devoted officer, Dr. Hugo Erichsen, of Birmingham, Mich. The collection consists of periodicals, serials, special papers, clippings, pictures, etc., material easily lost unless cared for. In 1918 we printed a catalogue of this collection, and a

new edition of this catalogue was edited and printed by us in 1940 but distributed by the Association.

### 1917

The South American purchase has been finally adjusted. The net cost was \$7,097 and the material secured 1,735 volumes and nearly 3,000 pamphlets. More purchases than usual were made at auction sales. The most important was that of the library of the late John B. Pearse, of Roxbury. This was the best collection on the natural sciences that has been offered in America for some time, and the Library was able to secure from it much valuable material, especially on geology, including several items long sought. In all 407 items were purchased at a cost of \$473.

Of individual purchases the most important were: *Flora danica*, with colored plates, Sowerby's *British mineralogy*, and Hodgin's *Documentary history of education in Upper Canada*. A number of periodical sets have been completed, among which may be mentioned: *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, *British Journal of Dental Science*, the publications of the *Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, *Railway magazine*, *Transactions of the Homeopathic Society of Pennsylvania*.

### 1918

Of individual purchases the most important were two additions to the incunabula and early printed books: *Arcana medicinae*, Geneva, 1498-1500, and Hieronymus Braunschweig's *The Vertuose Boke of Distyllacyon of the Waters of all maner of Herbes*, London, 1527. Because of inability to purchase of German second-hand dealers, the opportunities of obtaining sets of periodicals have been comparatively few, but advantage has been taken of several that were offered and the following sets have been completed or greatly extended: *Anales de la Sociedad Cientifica Argentina*, Young's *Annals of Agri-*

culture, British Printer, Canadian Almanac, a second set of the *Index Medicus*, *Journal télégraphique*, *Journal of the Institute of Actuaries*, *Miscellanea curiosa, sive Ephemeridum medico-physicarum Germanicarum . . . anni*, of the Halle Academy, 1670-1706, *Transactions of the Scottish Arboricultural Society*.

1919

The most important purchase of the year, and indeed for many years, was the collection of pamphlet material on the Natural Sciences made by the bookseller, Herr W. Junk of Berlin. This is stated to contain over 100,000 items and an offer of 210,000 marks for it has been accepted. It is needless to add that only the present low exchange value of the mark made the offer possible at this time. The collection has not yet been taken over and cannot reach Chicago in time for treatment in the present quarters even if there were room to handle it properly. It is already broadly classified and has a card catalogue, so that it can be made available to scholars in a very short time after work on it is begun.

Of individual purchases the most important are: *Theophrastus, Opera*, Leyden, 1520; *Ptolemæus, Geographia*, Nürnberg, 1525; *Hortus sanitatis*, 1538; *Terzio Lana, Prodroma overo saggi di alcune inventioni nuove*, Brescia, 1670; Bekker, *Deutsche Ornithologie*; *Quellen zur Geschichte der Stadt Wien*; Descourtelz, *Ornithologie Brésilienne*; and a collection of medical theses of the University of Montpellier, 1909-1918.

Among the periodical sets completed or extended may be mentioned: *Annales de géologie et de paléontologie*; *Bulletin de la Société Royale de géographie d'Anvers*; *Chemical Trades Journal*; *Naturalista Siciliana*; *Nieuw archief voor wiskunde*; *Tijdschrift van der Nederlandsch aardrijkskundig genootschap*; *Transactions of the Society of Tropical Medicine*; and the *Victorian Naturalist*.

Considerable additions have been made to the sets of herd and flock books, to the sessional papers of the provinces of Canada, and to the sets of various state documents.

1920

The order for the collection of pamphlets on the natural sciences has not yet been filled, but it is hoped that the transaction can be completed in a few months. Fortunately this purchase was made before the imposition of the "Valutaausgleich" but the Library has accepted the imposition of an export tax of twenty per cent. It is now stated that the collection will amount to about 120,000 pamphlets.

Reference has already been made to the purchase of the collection of pamphlets on the natural sciences. Of individual purchases the only important ones have been *Hortus sanitatis*, ed. Johannes Cuba, 1476, and a set of the works of J. B. Alberdi.

Among the periodical sets completed or extended may be mentioned: *Anales del Circula médica Argentino*; *Bibliothek for Laeger*; *Archivio per le scienze mediche*; *Boletin mensual del Musea social Argentino*; *Fire and Water Engineering*; *Hygieia*; *Micrographe préparateur*; *Il Morgagni*; *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*; *Paedagogisk Tidsskrift*; *Revista del Asociación médica Argentina*; *Den tekniske Forenings Tidsskrift*; *Transactions of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science*; *Water and Gas Review*; *Zeitschrift des Kgl. Preussischen Statistischen Bureaus*, Berlin.

1921

With the diminished appropriation for books it is evident that as a rule only new publications can be considered and there are but two noteworthy exceptions in the purchases of the year. One of these is a set of the *Zeitschrift für Chemie*. It is a short set, only 14 vol-

umes, but it contains the original articles by Hofmann, Kekulé, and others, which form the basis of modern organic chemistry, and its acquisition is especially notable because it completes the list of chemical periodicals selected twenty-six years ago.

The other noteworthy purchase is the collection of pamphlets on the natural sciences mentioned in the reports for 1919 and 1920. The shipment, in 109 cases, was received in April, but no continuous work could be done on it until October. So far eighteen cases have been opened. The contents have been divided into volumes, i.e., bound pieces (an unexpectedly large number) or unbound pieces of over 100 pages; pamphlets, i.e., independent publications unbound and less than 100 pages; dissertations, including learned school programmes and similar material; continuations, i.e., complete parts of larger works; reprints; and excerpts. There were obtained from the eighteen cases, which were taken as convenient without reference to their serial numbers: 761 volumes, 923 pamphlets, 2,507 dissertations, 1,596 continuations, 4,864 reprints, and 5,915 excerpts. It might be thought that multiplying by six would give approximately the totals in the collection, but this would not be a safe assumption, for the contents of the boxes vary, as the farmer said of his crops, so much that there isn't any average. The boxes are of approximately the same size and weight yet the number in them has varied, curiously enough in two boxes opened in succession, from 309 to 1,964; the number of excerpts from 23 to 998; and the number of dissertations from 5 to 1,310.

The first two classes have already furnished 851 volumes for the shelves and 323 additions to the classified pamphlet collection. The excess of volumes added and the small proportion of pamphlets added, in comparison with the numbers reported above, are explained by the fact that about one-third of the pamphlets are important enough to justify binding and treating as books. In

these two classes the duplication of material already in the Library has been 184 pieces out of 1,356, an unexpectedly small proportion. The duplication within the collection itself so far has been negligible. The dissertations are almost all earlier than the beginning of the Library's sets, and there will be little duplication in this class. These have also been made available at once. The continuations will be largely duplicates but a considerable proportion of them can be treated as reprints. As was expected, the latter and the excerpts will be, for the most part, duplicates of articles already in the Library in the periodicals from which they were reprinted or cut. They will be arranged by subject, some will be bound and thus greatly facilitate research work, but their treatment will be postponed until all material not in the Library has been cared for.

Of the 851 volumes entered, 21 were in General Works, 10 in the Social Sciences, 73 in the Physical Sciences, 631 in the Natural Sciences, 28 in the Medical Sciences, and 88 in the Applied Sciences; of individual subjects, 259 were on botany, 200 on zoology, 83 on geology, 66 on agriculture, and the remainder scattered among 27 other subjects. It is evident, therefore, that not only is the value of the collection greater than was expected but its range is broader.

## 1922

No orders for expensive works or for long sets have been given but two such orders given previously have been filled. One is the *Journal des savants, Paris, 1877-1901*, in 25 volumes, and the other the *Oekonomische Encyclopädie oder Allgemeines System der Staats-Stadt- Haus- und Landwirtschaft, 1773-1858*, by J. K. Krünitz, 242 volumes.

## 1923

The increase in the appropriation for books has made

it possible for the Library to resume its policy of strengthening the collection of sets of periodicals. Among those purchased during the year are the following:

*Annales de la Société botanique de Lyon, Archiv für wissenschaftliche und praktische Thierheilkunde, Boletin del Sociedad geographica de Madrid, Böttgers Polytechnisches Notizblatt, Hotel Monthly, Kunststoffe, Magazin der Pharmacie, Messager des sciences et des arts, Percheron stud book of America, St. Petersburger medizinische Zeitschrift.*

One individual purchase, Phillips' *Natural History of the Ducks*, is notable.

#### 1924

Attention was called in the report for 1923 to important orders for sets. While not all these orders were filled, so many were received that not for many years have the collections been so enriched as in 1924. Among the more important or more interesting sets completed or extended may be mentioned the following periodicals: *Annali delle Università Toscane, Annali di statistica, Annuario scientifico ed industriale, Commentarii de rebus in scientia naturali et medicina gestis, Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Feuerungstechnik, Gewerbeearchiv für das Deutsche Reich, l'Institut, Jurnal de physique, Mémoires concernant l'histoire naturelle de l'empire chinois, Messager des sciences, Milchzeitung, Neues Journal der Pharmazie, Paris médical, Psychiatrische en neurologische bladen, Revue de l'Agenais, Das Stellwerk, Zeitschrift für die gesamte Kohlensäure-Industrie*; and the publications of the following institutions: Chinese Customs Inspectorate, Collegio degli Ingenieri ed Architetti in Milano, Congresso degli scienziati Italiani, Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Naturforschende Gesellschaft Görlitz, Instituts Solvay, R. Accademia delle scienze dell' Instituto di

Bologna, R. Accademia italiana medica di Roma, Società geologica, Società italiana di scienze naturali, Society of Glass Technology. One individual purchase may be mentioned, *Astronomia Britannica*, 1762. Also, by vote of the Committee on Books, advantage was taken of the kind offer of Mr. Paul M. Chamberlain to assist the Library in developing its collection on horology. In addition to several rare individual items the Library secured the collection of the late M. Cottet of Paris, several hundred items. Another smaller collection of 400 pamphlets on Sovietism was obtained from a German dealer, and still another of nearly equal size of the *Annuario* of Italian universities from an Italian dealer.

The most important gifts of the year were the contributions of those friends of the Library who have made possible the evening opening and that of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago which assisted materially in the issue of the List of Current Periodicals.

1925

While the number of accessions was in no way unusual, their character had merit. Mr. J. Christian Bay, then Medical Reference Librarian, at his own expense made a trip to the Scandinavian countries in the summer, "and the Library derived great benefit from his efforts in its behalf." Besides filling from various sources a remarkably large number, 331, of the gaps in the periodicals, by no means all Scandinavian, caused by the War, he secured by purchase several very important sets, and made arrangements for exchange with public bodies and institutions and secured numerous gifts.

Partly due to his efforts, and partly to the purchases otherwise arranged for, the roll of serials completed or extended is unusually long and important, and the resources of the Library for research correspondingly increased. Among these sets may be mentioned: *Allgemeine Gartenzeitung*, *American Agricultural*

*turist, American Journal of Archeology, Asiatic Journal, Bibliothek for Laeger, Canner, Chemische Industrie, Cooperative News, Estadistica minera de España, Horological Journal, Journal de Médecine, Journal Suisse d'horlogerie, Nuova revista clinico-terapeutica, Pädagogisches Magazin, Revista de archivo publico mineiro, Revue critique de paléozoologie, Skandinavisches Archiv für Physiologie, Zeitschrift für ophthalmologische Optik, Zeitschrift für Vermessungswesen, and publications of the following institutions: Association scientifique de France, Deutsche Pharmaceutische Gesellschaft, Finska Läkaresällskapet, Government of Egypt, R. Comitato geologico d'Italia, Royal Society of Victoria, Société d'agriculture de France, Société industrielle de Rouen, Verein für Geschichte des Bodensees. One important individual purchase should be mentioned, S. C. Henschen's *Klinische und anatomische Beiträge zur Pathologie des Gehirns*, 7 volumes, Upsala, 1890-1922.*

## 1926

Except in one particular the purchases of the year have been of a routine character. The publication of the provisional edition of the Union List of Serials brought many offers of sets and runs of periodicals. As has been stated more of these offers were accepted than the appropriation warranted, and yet on one Italian catalogue alone ten times the amount actually ordered (practically all of which was received) could have been spent to great advantage. Among the sets thus obtained may be mentioned: *Analete Minelor din România; Annali dell' Istituto d'Igiene Sperimentale*, Rome; *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*; *Atti della R. Accademia Lucchese*; *Chemische Novitäten*; *Fühlings Landwirtschaftliche Zeitung*; *Journal des Scavans*, 1665-1875; *Kennel Club Stud Book*; *Memorie dello R. Istituto Lombardo di Scienze*; *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*; *Report of the South African Association for the Advancement of*

*Science; Transactions of the Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; and a set of the publications of the Bulgarska Akademia no Nautike, of Sofia.*

Also duplicate sets have been formed and bound of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and of *Chemical Abstracts*. Of the latter a triplicate later (1934) was secured.

Three individual purchases may be mentioned: *Monumenta Cartografica*; Economo's *Cytoarchitektonik der Hirnrinde*; M. V. Walcott's *North American Flowers*.

Two gifts of unusual character were received. One is a collection of thirty medals struck in honor of distinguished physicians and surgeons, presented by Dr. Ludvig Hektoen. The other is a gold pencil formerly owned and used by Thackeray and given by him to Mr. Crerar as a token of friendship. It was presented to the Library by Miss Katherine L. Peck of Waterbury, Connecticut, to whom it had been given by Mr. Crerar. It bears the inscription "J. Crerar from W. M. Thackeray."

Our collection of scientific and medical memorial medals from time to time in later years received additions by gift or purchase.

1927

The *Ehrenburg* Collection of maps, accompanied by a very good selection of books on descriptive geography, was secured in 1927 and formed a good complement to a large number of maps which had accumulated with us for many years. We catalogued the better part of the collection, but the Book Committee at length concluded that if this collection were to be completed further and especially to be kept up to date, the space at our disposal would be entirely inadequate and the work of preservation and upkeep would be out of proportion to our capacity. It therefore was decided to transfer this collection to the University of Chicago where a special

map collection then was developing. We therefore sold the collection to the University Library, retaining only the U. S. Topographic Sheets and other general reference sources, as well as geological maps properly preserved and kept on our shelves. It was a wise decision, for the University's map collection in time became a research center of distinction.

#### 1928 - 1930

During the years 1928-30 we found it urgently necessary to concentrate our efforts in renewing portions of the reference collection and in extending it materially. This consumed so much of our budget that much else was reluctantly disregarded.

In view of the physical condition of many periodicals we also found it desirable to procure second copies of various sets intensively used, while copies of such sets might still be obtained. Prices for complete sets had risen alarmingly in previous years. Reserve copies from that time on were put aside of important books as well; many come to us as gifts, but renewals for the reference collections were purchased when occasion arose.

A single volume purchased in 1928, deserves special mention. It was brought to us by a "book scout" and proved a copy of F. M. Regenfuss, *Choix de coquillages et de crustacés*, with 12 hand-illuminated plates, Copenhagen, 1758, folio. This famous work, a classic on the subject of shells and mussels, is a great rarity in the literature of conchology. The books had a curious fate. The author, a master-engraver, planned it on a large scale and received public subventions for its preparation and publication, but while these twelve plates were made ready for distribution, the subvention ceased, and "the available copies did not suffice even for supplying the royal court." The plates are without parallel in artistic execution and superior in this respect to those of the equally famous Martini and Chemnitz. One of the in-

teresting features of the volume is that it contains two smaller plates in copper stipple-engraving, one of the few examples of this superior method.

### 1931 and Later Years

Our important accessions in 1931 included the following periodicals and serials: *Rural New Yorker*; *Berlin, Verein für Naturkunde*; *Netherlands. Staaten General, Verslag der Handelingen*; *Proceedings of the Coal Mining Institute*; *Recueil des Mémoires . . . Français académiques de médecine*; *Journal des usines de gaz*; *India* (numerous government documents, completing previously acquired sets); *Journal de pharmacie de Belgique*; *Giornale internationale delle scienze mediche*; *Directory of Cement, Gypsum and Lime Manufacturers* (long set); *Svenska Läkare-Sällskapets handlingar*; *Radio news*; *Transactions of the Institution of Water Engineers*; *Bulletin de la Société entomologique de Belgique*; *Atti d'incorreggiamenti di Napoli*; *Nederlandsche geneeskundige Congres, Handelingen*; *Société Royale des sciences de l'agriculture de Lille*; *Transactions of the American Surgical Association*; *Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Belgique*; *Proceedings of the Laryngological Society of London*; *Journal of the textile Industries*; *Université de Lyon, Thèses* (many years); *Hermbstadt, Museum* (and *Bulletin*) *des Neuesten der Naturwissenschaft*; *Imp. Akademia Nauk, Mémoires* (1859-1894).

Some individual works also deserve mention: Edwin Hale Lincoln, *Orchids of the North Eastern United States* (we previously had obtained his *Wild Flowers* of the same region); Rex Brasher, *Birds and Trees of North America*; various botanical and medical works by Caspar Bauhin; Bose's *Landwirtschaft*; Liebig's *Die organische Chemie in ihrer Anwendung auf Agricultur und Physiologie* (1840, first edition); the Publications of the *Ingolf Expedition*.

In 1932 and 1936 we also obtained by purchase from the Library of the Copenhagen (Denmark) University two collections of their duplicates, mainly classical works in natural history and medicine, including some very rare periodicals. Nearly all are in very fine bindings and condition. Among the treasures thus acquired an excellent copy of L. H. Bojanus, *Anatome testudinum*, Vilna, 1819-21, in two volumes, deserves mention.



This will indicate that the general character of the acquisitions observed by our first Librarian was followed by his successor in office, even though the last decennium was far more difficult *for the purchaser* than all previous times.

In 1932 we obtained key sets or needed complements to the *American Blacksmith*; *Sweden, Riksdagens Protokoll*; *Great Britain, Geological Survey, Reports on the geology of counties*; *Egypt, Public Works Dept., Works*; *Archivio delle Istituto biochimico Italiano*; *Verein für freie psychologische Forschung*; *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*; *The National Builder*; *Transactions, Institution of Rubber Industry of the United Kingdom*; *Neues Journal der Pharmazie*.

A. Seitz, *Lepidoptera of the World*, also was acquired at this time.

1933 brought to us a magnificent, hitherto practically unused copy of the *Repertorium für die Pharmacie*, 110 vols. (1815-1851); *Dyes and Colors*; a complete, well bound set of Harper's *Weekly*, and a number of selected publications of scientific expeditions missed in previous years.

About that time the then surviving editor of *Iron Ore*, a very important weekly, of which no complete set has been recorded for any library, presented to us a *slightly*

incomplete run of about twenty-five consecutive years from 1908, a most welcome gift.



In 1937 some of our unusual purchases were: *Aero-plane*, Vol. 1-51; *Annales forestières et métallurgiques*; *Avicultural Magazine*; *Acta medica et philosophica* (Bartholin); *Zoology of the Voyage of the "Beagle"* (Darwin); *Bulletin technique de la Suisse romande*; *Cistula entomologica*; *Confectioner's Journal*; *Dansk Landhusholdningsselskab, Skrifter*; *Geneeskundig genootschap, Handelingen*; *Journal de médecine, chirurgie et pharmacie*; *Magazin der neuesten Erfindungen* (1802-1824); *Mittheilungen der naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Bern* (1843-1871); *Verhandlungen und Mittheilungen des Siebenbürgischen Vereins für Naturwissenschaften*; *Der Deutsche Pioneer* (Complete; from Dr. Otto L. Schmidt's library).

We also obtained a small but very choice collection of facsimiles of early lace patterns and a large number of early railroad reports; the Illinois *Constitution* of 1818; Jean F. La Perouse's *Voyage*, with the atlas (1789); the very rare works by Otto F. Müller, *Animalcula infusoria* and *Hydrachnae*, both with colored plates.

For many years the Library was used regularly and intensively by Dr. Horace E. Horton, a chemist of note, agricultural expert of the American Steel and Wire Company. Horton had been associated in early life with many of our agricultural chemists in the East. He assisted us in the choice of accessions in his specialty and accumulated also a personal collection. When he passed away (1934), this collection by his desire came to us as a gift. It contained about 2000 volumes and 5000 pamphlets, including many classical works and monographs; an organic entity and a unit of great and abiding value. It took the better part of a scholar's life-

time to assemble it, and it covered both the main subject and numerous side-lights. This collection was supplemented by a smaller collection of extremely rare early works on agriculture donated by Dr. *Max Henius*.



The passing of Dr. *Otto L. Schmidt* (1935) well known as physician, philanthropist and an ardent student of history, brought to us a number of important medical and other periodicals and a variety of scientific and other books of great interest, all in the finest condition. Many of these periodicals were put away as second sets to replace our original ones in case of accident or from wear and tear. This was a valuable gift.

From Dr. Schmidt's heirs we acquired by purchase an excellent collection of travels and expeditions into the Arctics and Antarctics, totalling about seven hundred volumes.



In 1938 the Library obtained a number of periodicals and serials pertaining to engineering, such as the publications of the *Diesel Users' Association*, and completed a variety of sets in many other fields, such as *Anales de ciencias naturales* (Madrid); *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*; *Agricultural Magazine*; the *Commentarii* of the *Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften in Göttingen*; *Kunstseide und Kunstmolle*; *Landwirtschaftliche Versuchstationen*; *Seifenfabrikant*; *Bulletin de la Société d'agriculture, lettres, sciences et arts de la Haute Soane* (1877-1900).

We also acquired *Henry C. Andrews'* great works on *Heaths* and *Geraniums*, the 1558 edition of *Archimedes*; *Ciruelo's Cursus quattuor mathematicarum*; a special collection of the *British Parliamentary papers and offi-*

cial documents pertaining to Canada, 1819-1878; Hertel's *Anweisung zum Glasschleifen*; Thomas Martyn's *Aranei*; the *Constitution* of Minnesota (1857); Schrenck's *Reisen . . . im Amur-Lande* 1854-56.

For many years we had, of course, watched every available opportunity to obtain earlier and later official railroad reports and accounts of surveys in connection with these, especially as regards Western roads. In the early days such material might be obtained at slight expense, and we had indeed succeeded in proportion to our vigilance. The rarest of these reports are the official communications, the engineers' and administrative documents of the *Galena and Chicago Railroad*. When a set was offered to us, we discovered that it had been sold to the bookseller, with many other, supposedly unimportant books rejected by another library. The bookseller paid 85 cents and received from us \$85.00. This was not an instance of carelessness, but the result of uncontrolled accumulation and surfeit.

In 1939 we added once more a few complete sets and many partial sets of periodicals and serials, such as the *Archiv für Wärmewirtschaft*; a second set of *Engineering News-Record*, *Glastechnische Berichte*; a partial second set of the *Scientific American*, and the *Bollettino della adriatica di scienze naturali; Aero-Engineering*.

Mention also might be made of a collection of autograph letters of a physician who served in the Northern Army during the Civil War.



Of classical manuscripts we never had many. An important one is the collection of papers by the Cardinal *Nicholas Cusa*, in a supposedly contemporary handwriting (one of the copies was dated 1447); it originally came from the Buxheim monastic library. We possess the correspondence between Prof. *Charles Eliot*

*Norton* and Dr. *S. Weir Mitchell*. In an opportune moment we now acquired an original manuscript by *S. T. Coleridge* on various philosophical problems (spirit, mind, soul), supposedly hitherto unpublished.

Other noteworthy acquisitions were: Denton's *Moths and Butterflies*, the special edition with additional plates, and a set of over six hundred original photographs of plants, shrubs and trees growing wild in the Puget Sound region; these photographs were prepared by Mr. Harry Detjen, of Seattle. Also Conrad Gesner, *De omni rerum fossilium genere* (1565), Peter de Gravers' *Treatise on the eye* (1780); Lemaire, *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux d'Europe* (1827), with colored plates; P. H. Lucas, *Histoire Naturelle des lepidoptères exotiques* (1836), J. C. Schiödte, *De metamorphosi eleutheratorum observationes*; Spallanzani, *Memoirs on Respiration* (1804); the original edition of Jan Ingen-Houss, *An Essay on the Food of Plants and the Renovation of the Soils*, London, 1798; P. A. Saccardo, *Fungi Italici autographice delineati* (1877-1886).

We developed by the addition of several early works our already very comprehensive collection of works on dye-stuffs and natural color substances and obtained the laboratory records, with elaborate formulas, of a textile factory in France, a magnificent volume containing many colored drawings, accompanied by samples of silk, wool and linen fabrics.

A complete set of the *American Railroad Journal* from 1832 enabled us to dispose of an incomplete one, a care and a source of worry to us for years.



One private library, purchased in 1940, deserves special mention: The *Howard C. Levis* collection on food, cookery and nutrition. Mr. C. W. Andrews had been for years observant of American books on cookery and

had obtained more than a thousand works on this subject, emphasizing regional and local books, incidentally those illustrative of our national habits and customs. The Levis collection, assembled in Paris by its owner during a long residence and containing many classical works in excellent and exquisitely bound state, comprises a total of about nine hundred titles. It became homeless in Chicago and was sold to us at a goodly loss by Mr. Walter M. Hill. This was at least the second time Mr. Hill sold something to us at a loss; the first instance was the classical *Essays upon the Field Husbandry of New England*, by Jared Eliot, Boston, 1760, the first American treatise on its subject and as rare as it is interesting. The Levis collection has a special card catalogue and, by order of the Book Committee, its use is restricted to special students.



In our earlier annual reports we recorded all gifts of books, but the pressure of work at last made this impossible. Thousands of individual and corporate donors have added materially to the contents of the Library, and we interpreted their kindness as including also our sister-libraries with reference to duplicates. Sales of duplicates have been made only in case of material paid for by us (portions of collections purchased as a whole, etc.).

In two cases of large gifts the Book Committee decided to keep everything including duplicates of copies already on our shelves. One was the *Pribram* collection on bacteriology (and mycology generally). This collection contains works and pamphlets (separates, minor papers, etc.) on the main and allied subjects. It was originally formed by Dr. Král, in Vienna, whose bacteriological studies of pure cultures formerly were well known everywhere. Dr. Ernst Pribram, Král's succes-

sor, continued the collection and included in it numerous microphotographs, records of cultures, reports and letters, also many portions of Dr. Franz Lafář's *dossiers* on technical and industrial mycology (fermentations and their products), so that the collection forms an historical unit illustrative of the development of bacteriology and its adjuncts in the field of biology.

Voluminous and continued gifts of special value have come from the American Medical Association, Abbott Laboratories, The Chilton Co., First National Bank of Chicago, The Portland Cement Association, the Rock Products Co., The Westinghouse Electric Co., Chicago Public Library, hundreds of physicians, chemists, engineers, attorneys and men engaged in public affairs, the foreign consulates in Chicago, foreign government offices, and departments, and thousands of individuals, to all of whom are due our thanks and appreciation. These gifts range from single volumes and pamphlets to thousands of publications.

In this connection the *Prairie Farmer* deserves mention. For years we had been watching opportunities to complete our sets of the early or long continued or else-wise important agricultural papers of the East and the Middle Border. The *Prairie Farmer* is a Chicago paper. Its appearance dates back to 1842. We built up a set as chance favored us, but in 1941 Mr. Burridge D. Butler, owner of this paper, and Mr. Arthur C. Page, editor, offered to transfer such portions of the Editor's office copy as would complement our holdings. The result is an almost complete set, the transfer of which to us was celebrated by an appropriate ceremony in the Library on October 17, 1941 before a radio audience. Addresses were made by Mr. Butler and Mr. Page, and Mr. Kanardy L. Taylor and Mr. H. Einar Mose responded on behalf of the Library. The set is unique in its almost perfect completeness.



For many years the Library preserved such portraits of authors and other notable persons within its scope, as came to hand. In 1941 we were favored by receiving from the estate of Dr. *Robert Sonnenschein* a collection of nearly two thousand portraits of scientific and medical men. It had been assembled over a long period and is accompanied by annotations by the collector. The portraits are of older and later periods, in copper and other forms of engraving, mezzotint, woodcut and photograph. Identification and provenance being present made the care of this collection easy for us. Including our previous accumulation the Robert Sonnenschein Collection of Portraits now numbers about 3700 pieces, and additions are received by frequent gift.

The following year Mrs. Sonnenschein presented to us a collection of bookplates formed by Dr. Sonnenschein. It contains many proof copies and forms an interesting unit, as it reflects the artistic taste of many medical men and other scholars.



Our latest extensive increment is the collection of books, manuscripts, letters and papers assembled by the Society of Medical History of Chicago. It contains about eleven hundred volumes, many with the autographs of the authors and others, especially former owners of distinction, and a large number of portraits. We hope to preserve this very interesting collection as a unit.

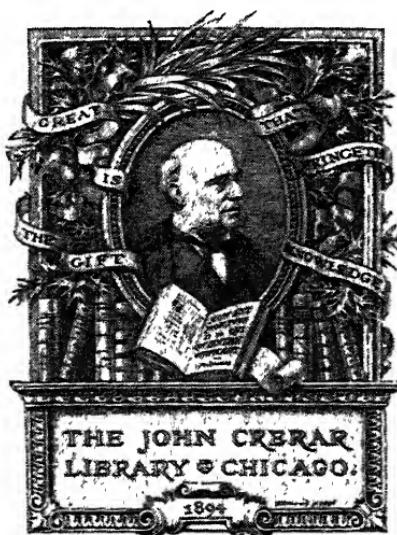


#### *COROLLARY ON BOOK SELECTION*

Treatises have been written on nearly every phase of library administration, but thus far very little has been said about the forces liberated in building up an active scientific

and technical reference library pursuing an historical ideal and being aware of its own prophetic continuity. It is evident to anybody that book selection covering special fields and all periods of learning, present times foremost, past times *in mente*, cannot be referred back to a formula of mental exercise and judgment. Nor can we simply adopt living examples among librarians and their advisers. The elusive conception known more or less vaguely as book knowledge does not suffice, nor an imitation of the practice of other institutions, nor those collective preferences and judgments which are at the disposal of any institution of worth and influence.

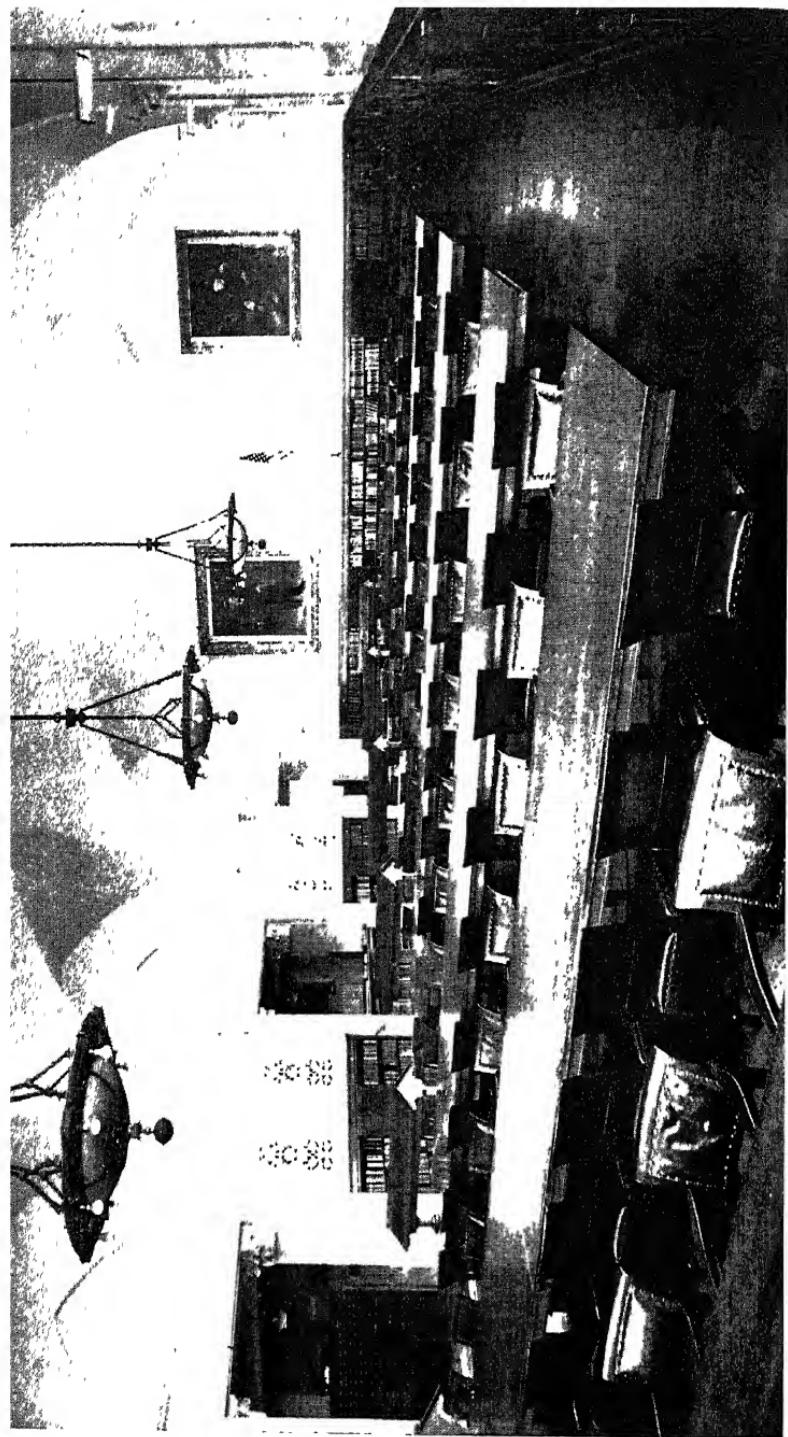
The force considered here is in several ways evident from the above enumerations. It is more than anything else an instinct for permanently and for temporarily active literature (based to some extent on experience) which some possess and others lack. Dr. W. F. Poole, not a scientist but a librarian, had this instinct. As years pass, it becomes united with perseverance and is sharpened by a live awareness of the reactions of the public, but, unlike this awareness, it cannot be learned. Dr. Poole placed the *Transactions of*



the Royal Society of London as a corner-stone in the Chicago Public Library. Dr. C. W. Andrews did not tarry in providing for the John Crerar Library another corner-stone: The *Histoire* and *Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences* and the *Compte Rendus des séances* — and the other works of the earlier and later academies of learning; he continued to build on this foundation, this "kind of rock," a collection which appears to have satisfied our public, learned and lay alike.

Only a comparatively small amount of book learning is carried from one generation to the next. But even this does not fail to keep a certain continuity of experience.





THE GENERAL READING ROOM, 1940

## VIII

*The Use of the Library*

The table below shows that from the beginning to the end of 1944 approximately nine million calls for books have gone back and forth over our loan desks. The outstanding variations of a fluctuating progress of use occur during the two World War periods, which prove the truth of the proverb that muses become silent while arms are drawn.

It should be pointed out that the actual use of books is about 20 per cent larger than these figures, because many readers make use of the reference collections in the reading rooms, and no call slips are required for these. Besides, the calls for current periodicals (magazines) have not been recorded until the present year, even though readers are required to fill out receipt blanks, particularly for the more valuable ones.

*Total Numbers of Calls from Stacks  
1897-1944*

1897	6995	1906	113565
1898	15367	1907	104435
1899	18890	1908	108662
1900	23986	1909	107006
1901	32193	1910	124819
1902	39606	1911	139386
1903	50264	1912	142262
1904	59591	1913	156314
1905	67386	1914	176368

1915	195502	1930	263286
1916	184800	1931	328768
1917	177978	1932	371019
1918	150302	1933	351780
1919	173873	1934	340106
1920	65325	1935	317056
1921	76728	1936	319540
1922	162122	1937	317391
1923	153055	1938	352797
1924	168133	1939	361773
1925	200213	1940	354223
1926	239197	1941	323902
1927	240789	1942	288025
1928	219492	1943	250100
1929	202994	1944 (calculated from first nine months)	
			272000
		Total	8909364

We cannot say whether these and other figures are high or low or average, because no other library functions under the same conditions and appeals to the same patronage. We only can and do say that our patrons have been encouraged by all the means known to librarians during a period of overwhelming library extension, expansion and development.

The exact number of *visitors* never can be ascertained by any library, as can the number of borrowers in circulating libraries, because visitors are not, and cannot be, personally identified and recorded and again compared for identity. Even *visits* can be counted only by the use of a recording turnstile. Thus the only measure of the use of books is the recorded calls. These are retained for some months after their use and finally discarded.

The daily picture is shown in the second table which gives the daily average, minimum and maximum for a selected number of years.

Other details may be culled from the annual reports.

*Maximum, Minimum and Daily Average  
of Calls from Stacks*

	Max.	Min.	Daily Average
1915	988	138	544
1924	1092	238	542
1920	1339	278	657
1925	1298	278	645
1926	1479	261	776
1927	1511	218	808
1928	1517	273	710
1929	1339	278	657
1930	1692	377	855
1932	1527	498	1205
1934	1522	483	1032
1936	1709	601	1037
1938	2212	686	1146
1940	1938	602	1146
1941	2008	583	1060
1942	1433	574	938
1943	1522	560	815
1944	1598	337	888

As the use of telephones spread in the country, inquiries by this method grew more and more common. When caught by a phone call the reference librarian is helpless and must even abandon readers who have precedence and have taken the trouble to appear in person. Many calls by phone are justified and innocent enough, but often the caller is less considerate and demands far more than his reasonable share and even time-consuming research, to meet his needs. The sufferer is not so much the Library as it is other patrons at whose expense of time the caller would monopolize the situation. With the present annual average of 10-12000 telephone calls this situation calls for much tact and adjustment.

We have refrained from posting notices or warnings about silence etc. in the reading rooms. It is understood that the Library is open to *readers* and that the only objec-

tion that can be raised about any person's presence is derived from unseemly behavior. This has occurred very rarely indeed. Libraries everywhere probably are among our most democratic institutions, and we believe our readers are well aware that they are welcome within our doors.

The smooth surface of our library life is troubled only by the event of mutilation of books and periodicals, or theft. No institution is entirely free from such irregularities. They sometimes come in waves, as when society, like at present, is in a state of great conscious and subconscious agitation. We probably lost by surreptitious removal about one thousand volumes during the fifty years of our existence, and we count about three times this number of known mutilations (removal of pictures, chapters of books, or articles in periodicals) — surely a small enough loss when we consider the freedom of movement enjoyed by patrons, and without which the place would become uncomfortable to all. Two glaring larcenies ended in court, one during the tenure of each of our two librarians (to their discomfort), but some less serious offences, including a couple of pathetic ones, were settled in our office.

Our recollection includes a vastly longer list of generous acts on the part of appreciative readers. Many brought to the Library books and other literature which we wanted and needed. Others would offer service in return for service. But above every friendly move, many would, and still do, make their use of the Library a wholesome habit, learn their way around, master the intricacies of the catalogues and share with us their triumphs of enlightenment. Year by year the reading rooms would assume day by day certain personal patterns, changing with the hours, always known to us; and in these patterns loom up in memory men and women of influence and ability, some not less than brilliant, of all walks in life, some learned and others lay. A few may look back at fifty years of continued attendance at the Crerar, others came and passed again after some years, others again grew old as we saw them come and go over

long periods of years; and when we no longer saw them, there was a void in the picture. It is tempting to mention names — as tempting as it is to recount visits of famous persons or visiting scientists and men of affairs, native or from foreign shores, to whom our Library implied significant associations. Of the home element we had the university groups, the local men of affairs, the manufacturing and engineering research men and the medical groups; and, on the other hand, students from the public or high schools up through the academic grades. In some cases we could follow a young man from his school days to his very graduation; we recognized "star students" among the young, and we believe that they benefited by their acquisition of the Crerar habit.



It already has been mentioned that the pattern of our planned policy of acquisition followed from the beginning the annual picture of use. This was and is our only means of insuring a harmonious growth of the Library. Examples of the pertinent statistics were given in the preceding chapter. In spite of our limited scope our field proved wide enough for all our efforts in giving satisfaction to our readers and correspondents. Our position was and is peculiar. We found our place in an area of activity between universities and colleges on one side, business men on another, industrial interests, new social developments and eleemosynary activities, medicine and biology. On the fringe of these diversified elements stand the high schools and the undergraduate interests, together with the un-graduate groups of readers. It would be a mistake to assume that we have satisfied everybody.

One virtue may cover or conceal several drawbacks. This virtue is that we always aim to give prompt service, that is, to act as immediately as possible on inquiries and to produce speedily what the reader wants. Under ordinary conditions people resent long waiting periods, and the people of Chi-

cago are no exception. Many libraries are handicapped in this respect by their less fortunate organization for this service or by their architectural limitations. Our building and our book delivery system favors a speedy delivery, even though the service within the stacks depends upon human effort and alertness. In our old quarters a one or two minute service for each book was not unusual, especially in the beginning. In the permanent building, after 1930, the reference staff was increased, and the results appeared at once in our daily statistics. In our report for 1930 the writer said: "The saving of 1.35 minutes per call (for books from the stacks) for 250,000 calls totals 168 full days."

The Table printed below shows the variations.

*Average Time per Call from Stacks*

Year	Minutes	Year	Minutes
1896	1.50	1924	7.73
1897	1.50	1925	7.73
1898	1.65	1926	7.62
1899	1.51	1927	8.97
1901	1.63	1928	7.16
1903	1.72	1930	5.65
1905	1.64	1931	3.85
1906	3.10	1932	3.51
1908	3.32	1933	3.67
1910	3.73	1934	3.79
1912	3.66	1935	3.61
1913	3.84	1936	3.21
1914	4.32	1937	3.48
1915	4.12	1938	3.59
1916	3.84	1939	3.57
1917	4.53	1940	3.74
1919	4.28	1941	3.40
1921	7.25	1942	3.61
1922	8.45	1943	4.81
1923	7.97	1944 (first half)	4.80

*General Average 1896-1944: 4.24 minutes*

This table shows that the compactness of our old quarters made for very quick service until 1904 and 1905 when the premises became inadequate owing to the influx of comparatively very large masses of accessions. When adequate space had been secured (after 1907) the average continued pretty uniformly until we went into our permanent building. Although the localities there favored similar promptness, various circumstances, especially the difficulty of securing adequate attendants for the stacks, combined at times to send the average up to about 7 or 8 minutes. But after 1929 the difficulties were remedied by the hiring of older and more mature attendants; this, and the installation of the new book conveyor, reduced the average. Then came the second World War, during which the average for obvious reasons rose somewhat, but it still remains at a stage which a majority of our patrons consider at least respectable.



In the early days, when our patrons were relatively few but numbering many academic men and students who knew their way among books, direct access to the book stacks was given liberally. In those times, about the beginning of the century, a movement was on foot to permit readers to make their own free selections from the book stacks. Some librarians and many more readers advocated open shelves, especially for the selection of popular books and general literature. This movement had merit in the case of public libraries and other kinds of collections where browsing would serve several purposes. Well-meaning enthusiasts believed that blind prospecting for literary gold and useful knowledge amidst masses of good books would satisfy a healthy craving, because even good catalogues are, after all, only an indication of what the reader may want and need. Some freedom of choice and selection had become a craving

with those who tired of pedantic advise on self-education or diversion by means of the printed page. And the users of libraries remembered only too well the previous long period during which some keepers of public book collections had been none to ready to hand out their cherished volumes to the more or sometimes less merciful treatment of the public.

The Crerar had no open shelves except in the Reading Room, in the sense that certain groups of books were set aside for browsing, but we admitted known and responsible readers to our stacks, some by passes valid for a year, and renewable, others for shorter periods, and others again for single visits. This worked very well. Everybody knew everybody else in the smaller world of those days, and new patrons were quickly absorbed, their work recognized and aided; traveling visitors properly introduced, sharing all the rights of the home element. The drawbacks proved few. No books were allowed to pass out of the Library. If any was reported lost, this only implied that it had been misplaced. And because readers could not be trusted to replace anything correctly, all replacement was done by attendants. William Teal developed into a master of discovering misplacements, and the writer at one time worked out a psychologic formula for them.

After some experience, however, many readers found it much easier to use the catalogues and rely on the knowledge or judgement of the reference staff. Besides, the rapid growth of the collections made much browsing idle and unprofitable. In 1898, there were 287 admissions on passes and 730 on simple registration. There never were more than about a hundred annual passes in force in any one year.

In 1898, also, the Librarian had discovered two essential needs: A photographic outfit so that there might be no risk, loss or damage to books incidental to allowing their removal from the Library. This, however, never came to be. But reproductions of articles in periodicals, books and chapters of books, grew in demand.

In 1912 we acquired a very efficient apparatus for mechanical reproduction of printed matter, the *Camерagraph*. Its greatest virtue was that it permitted the use of both sides of a sensitized paper. The simultaneous double exposure of rectos and versos was made possible by an arrangement of mirrors. We produced reproductions *en masse* for years at the rate of ten cents per page but at last discovered that this gave us an annual loss of over \$2000. However, the machine had several advantages over its competitors. When it went out of use, the volume of business had risen to such proportions that we no longer were justified in carrying the loss, and we thereupon made different provisions for reproductions on behalf of clients.

In recent years the process of microfilming came into vogue, supported by an ardent propaganda. It has some advantages and some drawbacks. About 2 per cent of the requests for reproduction which now and in later years have come to us, demand this form of photocopying, and we are pleased to refer these requests to the University of Chicago Microfilming Laboratory, which seems to satisfy the demands upon ourselves and our sister-libraries in Chicago for such reproductions. It goes without saying that for large orders, for entire books and long series of documents the microfilm recommends itself by its relative cheapness and compact form. Its future usefulness to us will be along the line of copying periodicals and important books which gradually decay under the influence of constant use and adverse climatic conditions. That some extremely rare books may be made available for use in this form is another obvious advantage, so long as they have intrinsic value.

For one who has shared in the reference work or been close to it continuously for many years, naturally our reading rooms hold many interesting memories. A patronage such as ours includes persons not easily forgotten, and from time to time their problems have held elements of deep and general importance. For years one or another member of the reference staff would keep records of some particularly

intriguing questions. It is tempting to mention names and describe problems and incidents, to recite anecdotes and follow some of the threads of research into remote corners and by-paths, but this would be of scant interest at this time, because every new generation brings forward its own problems, and almost each day has its own reference events.

Perhaps the statement is true in many cases, as it has been said, that the Crerar staff took as much interest in the problems of its readers as did the readers themselves. We hope so. But the same is true of every other library worthy of its name. It also is true that while librarians do not, and would best not try to "educate" their readers, any reader may add to the education of the librarian by rousing his personal interest in producing a satisfactory or exhaustive answer. Our staff in past years afford several examples of this. Robert Usher, who passed away last summer, is an example of this, Miss Ella Salmonsen, who still is with us, is another. In some cases we produced not less than pretty complete bibliographies and even exhaustive dissertations in reply to questions from high quarters. The writer's recollection covers a history of submarine boats, a survey of some five hundred papers on the absorption of calcium in animal metabolism, an analytical paper on the poisonous fishes of the tropics, and a history of spoons used as baptismal gifts and their inscriptions.

Such and similar, even less extensive, problems brighten the hours of the reference librarian in a scientific and technical library, the microcosm of which as yet remains a terra incognita if not indeed incognita to most of our library schools, as they do not know enough to distinguish essentials from vacuities.

It cannot be denied that apart from mere routine questions some problems are as indifferent in character as others are deeply important. We all know that librarians are not judges of the problems referred to them, yet they are well aware that some have greater merit than others, and some even warrant a searching insistence on the basis of the idea

that potentially the Library has an answer for every question asked — an idea that every young library worker might well adopt. Other questions appear inconsequential, a few even idle. These considerations cannot help influencing a reference staff, even if no reaction is allowed to become apparent.

The approach of readers is uniformly polite and agreeable. Some even apologize for the implied trouble they consider themselves causing the staff, even though the free and public character of the Library is well known. Others, usually owing to an inferiority complex, assume a brusque and categoric manner which they rarely intend. Amidst these variations of approach, the reference staff must be pleasantly impersonal, and yet personal enough to convey the proper sympathy.

Like the minister who preaches a sermon, the reference librarian would best not attempt to measure the appreciation he reaps from his efforts. Mr. Andrews held that readers never felt proper appreciation of the Library's efforts. The writer thinks differently. Just as in any other public office, library visitors should be encouraged in a natural way to know that they do not seek favors or privileges in consulting a library, but that they are quite within their rights.

By our very existence and by the needs we supplied the Library won its constant friends and steady customers who enjoyed all the rights that the house afforded — except the privilege of systematic borrowing.

We enjoyed a conservative publicity, but never found it necessary to advertise our existence except in aiming to avoid dissatisfaction, even though we could not always avoid disappointments. Many readers (and local libraries out of town) keep mistaking us for the Newberry Library or vice versa or taking it for granted that we circulate our holdings or give service in return for a fee. The need of at least some circulation of the classes of books within our scope is palpable, even though the Chicago Public Library maintains a very high efficiency. For many years the rule obtained that

no book or periodical was allowed to leave the Library under any circumstances. Very slowly and very gradually exceptions, arising from sheer emergencies, craved recognition, and occasionally a book was allowed to be borrowed overnight or over a Sunday against a cash deposit of twice its value. Cheques were not accepted as deposits. Recent volumes or single issues of current periodicals never left the building. But as exceptions prove the rule, this inflexibility gradually relaxed. Our records show that never over two volumes on an average per day were allowed on personal loans, and none ever was lost. But the Library emphatically does not "circulate" its books, except by way of inter-library loans.

Inter-library loans developed out of a necessity arising from the growing need of research material in all parts of the country. Individuals in need of material not locally available may borrow what they urgently need at some library center by application to their local library, public or institutional. The general spread of this system is largely a twentieth century development. Here, too, we at first responded reluctantly, especially because we as a library had little need of this service. The demand has grown, we might say, out of all reasonable proportions and now, during the second World War, has reached proportions of which we never dreamed in times past. At the outset we recorded a few inter-library loans every year. We now serve more than four hundred libraries all over this country and Canada, including Government departments, offices, laboratories, camps, etc., and industrial organizations, hospitals, clinics, medical and scientific societies, so that in this respect our service may truly be said to be national in scope. All other large and comprehensive general and special libraries in the country have similar duties devolving upon them. The necessity for such efforts shows how inadequately many localities as yet are provided with research material in proportion to their supposed or actual educational or research needs. The need is obvious in the case of geo-

graphically isolated industrial or medical centers where certain and prompt information may be a matter of human welfare, but it is not less deeply felt in other places on the background of the rapid growth of our economic, industrial and business interests, not to mention the necessities developed in the course of our Defence work, which touches every phase of activity. At the present time about 5000 volumes in our Library are subject to inter-library and local emergency loan every year, and we do not regret this, even though we ourselves borrow of other libraries on behalf of local readers only two per cent of the number of loans we extend. Although this has been going on for years the writer recollects only two instances where a book was lost in transit.

Time was when a request for an extension of the loan period was considered an insult, but calmness has supervened. One of our dear old colleagues, now gone to his reward, actually framed and hung in his office the reply he received on attempting to persuade us to extend the loan period in an important case, and he never repeated the experiment. Happily such aspersions have given way to a wholesome inter-library blandness, except in cases where a loan is refused to the Crerar, an event that never will fail to send the Librarian on the war path.

Some of our colleagues here and there from time to time express the opinion that the inter-library loan convention is very troublesome and gives rise to abuses of the privilege. We do not think so, but we firmly believe, on the other hand, that inter-library loans ought to be favored by a federal law providing free franking privileges — or subsidiarily, that all inter-library loans be taken over by the Library of Congress and the convention abolished for all other libraries. This, of course, is absurd, but so is the burden of many impudent local borrowers in distant places, paying the double cost of transportation on books used for the purpose of benefiting or enlightening mankind.

## IX

### *The Catalogues and Classification*



The methods of library cataloguing changed and developed rapidly after the beginning of our century. All large and growing libraries increased by leaps and bounds. Private collections, later to be incorporated in public institutions, were assembling. All these masses of books demanded treatment suitable to their use as sources of information. Cataloguing and classification of books became the order of the day. Not that libraries had not before been catalogued and to some extent classified, but their extended use for research and study, for consultation, enlightenment and entertainment — these considerations demanded that the access to all such socialized use of books, manuscripts, maps and illustrations were facilitated by adequate methods.

Two Americans, more than anybody else, caught the spirit of this new direction in library administration: Melvil Dewey and Herbert Putnam. Dewey conceived and developed the classification of library material, indicated the purposeful organization of library service and lifted this service into a higher plane. He founded, through his library school and by other activities, a school of public library workers and organizers whose influence became truly demophilic. Herbert Putnam carried these practices into a wider field by nationalizing the new library ideals and normalizing the technique, the bibliographical and bibliological practices with a view to a library system directed toward the welfare of knowledge.

Each of these great men founded a school of librarians, under whose hands the American library movement proved itself before the whole world. The impulses emanating from Albany under Dewey and from the Library of Congress under Putnam brought out many talents and a wealth of constructive plans and methods tending to support and sustain what has been termed the library habit of our people. This habit gradually grew into a social movement out of which sprouted such conceptions as education through libraries, the adult education movement and even the rather exaggerated notion misnamed the people's university. All these progressions had the effect of increasing enormously the use of all classes of books and to incite a growth of libraries all over the land.

In the opening chapter it was explained that the Crerar from the beginning took its place in the line of the new development by which more books would be available for more classes of readers and for far more individual students.

The organization of our cataloguing and classification already outlined above (page 60 to 64) was beyond that of most other libraries functioning in 1895. The printed card catalogue came as a definite innovation. New and expanded rules for cataloguing grew out of the necessity of recognizing the numerous forms of publications, their make-up, their endless individual peculiarities. These rules, recognizing types and forms and variations, were codified by cataloguing experts and by national and local committees, tried in our catalogue department and elsewhere, debated at conclaves and library meetings, discussed in detail and gradually adopted by libraries generally, resulting in a practical description of books and other forms of literature definitely identifying these. It was a costly process, as it called for skilled workers and many of them; and long years of effort. But cataloguing somehow always was, and now more and more grew to be a most important key to the knowledge of books. Hence the personnel of the catalogue department uniformly outnumbers that of even the reference staff, the

latter being chiefly concerned with the results of cataloguing and classification. But the two groups are mutually interdependent.

Our printed catalogue cards soon began their double mission: 1) describing all books and periodicals wherever the catalogues might reveal to the readers some feature — most books being of the poly-subject kind — and obviating the necessity of preparing extra copies in manuscript or by typing; 2) making our resources known in other, especially local, institutions. In 1897 we began to designate depositories for our printed cards, and our first list of depositories included the Armour Institute, the Chicago Public Library, the Field Museum, the Newberry Library, the Northwestern University and the University of Chicago Libraries. Later on we made distributions to depositories farther afield, first of all, to the University of Illinois.

Our cataloguers in 1897 prepared our first printed list of current periodicals, several new editions of which followed in the course of years. This led to the preparation of a Union List of Periodicals in the public libraries of Chicago and Evanston, undertaken by the Chicago Library Club; and in 1900 came our List of Books in the Reading Room, which was issued in response to demands. In 1908 began our first larger move in analytical cataloguing, applied to the British Blue Books, proposed as the inception of a co-operative cataloguing venture which was hoped to lead "to a determined effort to avoid the wastefulness of the present methods of individual cataloguing by each library."

Of course there was, and is among libraries, some duplication of cataloguing, as in some cases several libraries catalogue the same book. The consideration of this as a waste has been discussed repeatedly also in later years. Some duplication is unavoidable, as each library must carry its accessions, the most important ones as rapidly as possible, into their catalogues for the benefit of their readers. But the waste, if there be any, is infinitely smaller than in other fields of public service, in publishing, in economic distribu-

tion, in hundreds of forms of administration, in agriculture and technology. Libraries waste a minimum.

The above mentioned union catalogue of periodicals inspired our cataloguer to prepare a List of Union Catalogues of the world, and for many years after this kind of catalogue, now in book form, now again in the form of cards, was developed in many localities, the latest aspects being the regional bibliographical centers established in several progressive natural library centers in the West.

In 1910 the Library counted on its shelves 268,153 volumes which were represented in the author catalogue, the classed catalogue and the subject catalogue, by a total of 546,560 cards,— an average of 2.5 cards per title (book). In later years this average doubled.

In 1910-11 also began the extension of printed card deposits beyond the State in that a copy of each card was sent to Harvard University, New York State Library, Princeton University, University of Michigan and Yale University. We printed our first List of Books on the History of Science, which had been compiled by the use of stereotypes of the entries on the printed cards. This list, or rather catalogue, and its later supplements, together with the List of Books on the History of Industry and Industrial Arts, and the List of Bibliographies on Special Subjects, constitute our real contributions to bibliography and still are considered of permanent value in their fields. The List of Bibliographies of Special Subjects much later was supplemented by reference lists reproduced in smaller editions in mimeograph form.

For curiosity's sake we note that in 1914 we received a request from a committee of the American Library Association inviting us to determine the cost of cataloguing one hundred books of average difficulty. The cost of time was \$57.70, of stock, composition and press work \$25.81; a total of \$83.51. These statistics showed in the end that the cost of cataloguing in some libraries is very high, in others considerably lower, and that ours could not be considered

inordinate. But neither the American Library Association nor anybody else, whether in 1914 or in 1944, has been able to state what the work of average difficult cataloguing ought to cost. In these cost calculations many more factors are involved than anybody, then or now, recognized. Apart from this, nobody ever was able to indicate definitely what any library function, whether difficult or facile, normally is *worth*.

In 1917 we printed the first supplement to the List of Books on the History of Science. Our War contribution was a List of Books on Military Medicine and Surgery. Later followed a List of Books and Articles on Cremation, a second edition of which came in 1940.

In those years, when accessions of new books were very numerous, we printed cards for about 70 per cent of these accessions and used for the remainder printed cards supplied by the Library of Congress. Occasionally the Library of Congress contingent of cards rose to 50 per cent, a witness of the efficiency of the Card Division of that institution. There were slight differences in our interpretation of cataloguing rules between us and the Library of Congress, but they never were serious and certainly not worth the endless correspondence about points of difference, in which cataloguers for years indulged themselves. Waiting for Library of Congress cards covering perhaps rare or remotely accessible books frequently gave rise to delays in the building up of our catalogues. The ascendancy which many cataloguers, ours not excluded, occasionally arrogated to themselves in many large libraries over and above all other functions concerned with books and their routine treatment, were almost proverbial for a time. It gradually yielded under administrative efforts tending to curb its importunity. Yet, cataloguing and classification cannot be governed by mechanics or rules of efficiency, when a library staff is expected to do justice to the work involved. Many books deserve and need careful and exhaustive consideration in order to fulfil their purpose, and this method cannot be effected by speed. Some

libraries, under the stress of vast and sudden influxes, have attempted to resort to what was termed simplified cataloguing. We never took sides with these influences, even though they came close to our doors, but we adopted what we term modified cataloguing for minor publications and books of secondary importance, yet deserving of a place on our shelves. Our practice of modified cataloguing was outlined in 1942 with skill and clearness by Miss Alice Charlton and, because of its importance and the obvious need of such indications, put into printed form.

From the beginning until the late thirties we supplied many printed cards to other libraries or furnished them by way of exchange. The number of depositories for our cards gradually was increased.

Our copy of the Library of Congress card catalogue was kept up from the beginning. It later developed into a union catalogue of all printed cards received by us in exchange or by purchase. Other accessory catalogues had our attention, notably the analytic one for zoology and allied sciences issued under an international arrangement by the Concilium Bibliographicum, of Zurich. The Index of Botanical Species printed by the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University; the Tilden catalogue of literature on Algae; the botanical analyticals of the Torrey Botanical Club and one or two other catalogues on special subjects within our scope, likewise were among our resources, but all except the first at length proved too special for us to maintain, because other institutions had taken over the special researches depending on these catalogues. In 1940, with the approval of the Board of Directors, they were transferred by gift to our cordial colleague, the University of Illinois Library. Although the printed catalogue of the Library of Congress, in book form, now is in progress, our Union Catalogue is continued, because it includes files of many additional printed cards.

The union catalogue of medical publications, covering the holdings of the corresponding libraries in our City and pro-

vided by the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, is located in our building and continues its useful function.



As regards our system of classification, we already mentioned (page 62) that when the Library was organized, only the Decimal Classification was completed and available for use. It was not fully adequate for all classes, and before long we introduced changes and expansions. The expansions devised by the Institut International de Bibliographie in Brussels for Sociology and Natural History proved rather useful, but in time we modified even this system, adopting it for our purposes. One feature, termed by us the topographic index, is worth mentioning. Many books refer to definite countries or localities, for example Labor Conditions in England, which carries the classification 331.0942, or the Natural History of India, which is classed 570.954, or Railroads in Illinois, which is designated by the class number 656.09773. In the classification schedules the symbol for England is 942, for India 954, for Illinois 977.3. By inverting the classification indicated above, so that the symbol for the country (or locality) comes at the beginning, and by placing the subject symbol in a parenthesis, we obtain the following three combinations: 942(331), which reads England (Labor); 954(570), which reads India (Natural History) and 977.3(656), which reads Illinois (Railroads). When this is done for all classed entries, it will be seen that one may build up a geographically dominated catalogue in which the subjects (labor; natural history; railroading, etc.) are secondary, so that one section of the catalogue will consist of a list (by symbols) of all countries and their localities and their pertinent subjects, functions, activities and conditions. In the ordinary classification the *subject* of the book dominates; in the geographical or topographic arrangement the point of view is the *locality*. The number 630.973 means Agriculture

in the United States. In the geographical arrangement 973 (630) we have it: United States—Agriculture. One important result of this contrivance is that there will be one place in the classed catalogue where one may find all subjects pertaining to any one country.

Our classification system has remained simple enough, even though the interjected fifty years have played havoc with certain portions. It is well to remember that classification is not a process by which a logical and scientifically correct and valid place for a book may be designated with reference to an accepted system of knowledge. There is no such system. There are many attempts at a logical or convenient arrangement of the conceptions and ideas, combinations and systems of specialities, most of which are in a state of incessant development. Forms of thought, interpretations of laws of nature, the application of groups of facts and theories now here, now there, — all these keep changing and recombining forever in an endless succession of variations. The classifier of books in a library therefore can concern himself only with determining the place where the reader of average ability will find it, or where the reference librarian will look for it; and in most cases these purposes are fulfilled. If it were not so, we should find it necessary to change forever our system of classification, the location of books, the catalogues. This is possible for vertical or other filing systems, as indeed it is to some extent possible to accomplish in a catalogue, regardless of the classification. If our pragmatic classification status stood hopeless before the ever changing applications of knowledge and ideas, no classification would be far preferable, because in that case one might arrange the books by a simple accession number, confine oneself to a simple author catalogue, and fall back upon an index system of subjects or any conceivable arrangement suitable to the purpose in view.

Because of the fixed location of the books as originally classified we always found it more feasible to effect changes or desirable innovations or developments in our catalogues

where such changes involve only the catalogue cards, copies of which are easily supplied.

The subject catalogue, even more than the classed catalogue, calls for periodical revision. The meaning and implication of many subjects change, new subjects grow out of old ones or spring up independently. We let Miss Alice Charlton, chief cataloguer, and Miss Harriet Penfield, chief classifier, have the floor for some remarks.

#### REMARKS BY THE CHIEF CATALOGUER

In a fifty year retrospect it seems fitting to dwell upon one or two features of our Cataloguing Department that have lasted fifty years and as far as we can foresee, should be just as useful in the next fifty years. We mention first our Official Catalog, for which we all give daily thanks, whether we think of it in gratitude or take it for granted, or accord it perhaps an unconscious form of thanks. Starting this catalog fifty years ago in a library as specialized as ours must have drawn amused comments if not actual criticism of extravagance. An official catalog is of course rather general in large libraries but ours is uncommon in the fact that it combines the order file with the catalog entry. It is also somewhat unusual in its duplication of all added entries, making it truly a duplicate of the alphabetical public catalogs in the reading rooms. It has many obvious advantages. First of all, the reading public and the reference staffs are never bothered by staff members consulting it; their work is done entirely at the Official Catalog except for the necessary filing, corrections or an occasional shifting through the years. Secondly, in a building like ours with many floors depending upon elevator service or running up and down flights of stairs, it saves hours of time and energy.

The matching of order cards with the completed catalog entry gives the order file the benefit of cataloguing research and cross references that are kept under control by a checking system we installed only about ten years ago. This functions very smoothly, order cards being made as usual, according to the material in hand, leaving the research to the cataloguers. They, in turn, mark the call number on the temporary order card (an improvement we made about 15 years ago) and when the printed card is filed it is accompanied by the order card. Any changes or corrections are provided for the latter without scratch-

ing the original entry, so that entries in order- or accession-books may be found or identified if the need arises.

In short, our order card is our master card, the more so because the back of it is ruled for tracings. This too dates back fifty years. There are three large divisions, two for classed and subject entries and a third for added entries for the author catalog. At its top are spaces for rubber stamps showing the initials of the staff member responsible for each step of the work, i.e., the research on the entry, the checking with the official catalog, the typing of the copy for the printer or the checking for the Library of Congress card or the actual typing of a temporary card and the classifying and shelflisting. At first glance this stamping may seem mere unnecessary detail. We often question it but continue because it has many small uses. Accompanied by the date, we can locate the book in process. Personalities are reflected in this work at any given space of time; we know our co-workers and can evaluate any of the work, should something be questioned later on. If anyone cared to make a time and motion study of these records, not made under test conditions, it might be worth such efforts.

Our shelflist is an example of a modern invention successfully combined with a time-honored library record. Instead of duplicating it in the public departments where it is constantly needed, we have telautograph instruments between the shelflist and the main reading room and telephone connections between it and the periodical and medical departments. In this way we have far more up-to-date records than we could get from any duplicating of records which depends on the personnel copying them. Because of this service we have also kept the old formula on our cards for periodicals and continuations, "Library has — to date." It has never really mattered much what we have on the cards in our public catalogs regarding our holdings of a set except as a convenience to the reference librarians and the readers that notice the details printed on the card. It is just as well that thousands of entries for old periodicals and continuations have been closed as they went out of existence or merged into something else, for our service would be choked with too many futile calls. However, in the case of sets rarely consulted, it is open to question how valuable such closing and correcting of old entries may be, especially with the Union List of Serials now going into supplements to a second edition.

In many libraries the marking of books has been a problem but here again, thanks to a good beginning, our books have from the first gone to a professional who has made up the numbers in gold leaf or black letters. The durability and neatness of such lettering has tended to discourage the changing of numbers; it has always seemed better to add cards in the Classed Catalog instead or to avoid any attempts at an alphabetical arrangement of periodicals and continuations on the shelves.

In our annual reports we have noted minor innovations of recent years, and only time will be the judge of their value in the next fifty years. We have also done much work in simplifying our routine, in cutting down non-essentials in practices that had grown up. Our criterion for all of this simplification has been to ask, "Why is it done in such a way?" If nobody on the staff could give a reasonable and sensible or even a definite answer, we questioned the matter in more and patient detail, then worked it out so that it stood on its own. We have tried not to bow to tradition unless it too could give such an answer.

*Alice Charlton*

#### REMARKS BY THE CHIEF CLASSIFIER

Our classification practice in its main outlines was fixed early. During the formative years and for a good many years after, the heads of departments met formally to discuss and decide new practice in classification as well as in other departments when changes or new matters were brought up. Later this method gave way to informal consultation between those concerned.

The lack of expansion in the early editions of the Decimal Classification in many of our fields led to the adoption of the Brussels schedules for many sections of the Social Sciences and in Zoology (as developed in Zurich). These are still used, though expansions in later D. C. editions are now very similar.

The rapid growth of science and technology as well as of our own collections has made it necessary from time to time to provide expanded schedules in advance of D. C. Such schedules have usually been original work by the classifier, but sometimes were adopted from other schedules. Important among these are Local Government, New Deal, Organic Chemistry (based on Beilstein and now itself out of date), Radio, Aeronautics, Agriculture, Chemical Engineering, Hor-

ology, Photography, World War I (with World War II now in the making).

The adoption of new expansions, either D. C. or our own, is not an easy matter, for there is usually much material in the old place. The fact that we print our cards and letter the call numbers in gold on the books makes it impossible to reprint except where there is very little material. We therefore make the new entries in the public and official catalogs, sometimes about 25 years back, but on all back titles if it is possible, or they are important enough, and note the date when we began to use the new shelving number. The adoption of the D. C. expansion of Electric engineering was the most extensive of these undertakings. Thus we continually struggle to keep at least all recent material together under a plausible classification.

#### SUBJECT HEADINGS

Of course, a classified catalog must have an index of some sort to lead readers to the material which is displayed in classified form. The earliest experiment with the form of such a subject index was to reduce the D. C. relative index to guide cards, whether we yet had material in all the places listed on the guide or not. We later had to eliminate or revise these. As we came to need so many new subjects that no suggestion for the form appeared either in Library of Congress lists or in the D. C. index, the method was to place on the guide card the numbers that seemed called for by the various aspects of the subject. For convenience these aspects, which were scattered in different sections of the classed catalog, were brought together in the subject catalog by filing the actual titles behind the guide card. Another case where the titles are filed in the subject catalog is where, for lack of expansion, several different topics take the same number in the classed catalog. It is more convenient for the reader to find the titles behind the guide card for each topic than to be referred to the number in the classed order and have to pick out there the topic he wants. But if the classed schedules give one number only for a certain subject the guide card simply refers to that number. Thus the subject file became more than a mere index, titles appearing behind certain of the guides. These collecting guides, as we call them, have been spoken of as the Crerar contribution to a classed catalog.

About 1935-36 the subject catalog and the form of the guide cards began to receive considerable study, and several changes were decided upon. There had so far been no inversions and no sub-divisions and

no *see also*s except in one restricted form. Certain very large subjects had become unwieldy, e.g. Petroleum, Coal, etc., and it was decided to subdivide such subjects. Also considerable expansion in the classed catalog was being done, notably Electric Engineering and the new D. C. in Forestry. This work showed the need for inverted forms of reference and for *see also*s, at least to a limited extent. The need was also seen for more careful construction of subject guide cards, so that the numbers which were given would be true finding numbers and lead to material. As may be imagined, this work is still in progress, although considerable has been completed.

#### THE PUBLIC CLASSIFIED CATALOG

Some of the main features of the classed catalog are: 1) A full quota of running guides, making it easy to follow the various divisions. Much of this has been recently supplied. 2) Filing by date, latest in front. 3) More use of form divisions than in most libraries. 4) Alphabetical arrangements where there are many items which should be kept separate, but which do not lend themselves to systematized grouping. The alphabetizing is done by adding two figures from a table. 5) The most notable of the alphabetical arrangements is in 900, where the D. C. numbers for countries and states are used, but under each the cities, towns, counties or other political divisions are arranged in alphabetical order. A further device which makes this part of the catalog a remarkably useful reference tool is that under each country, city, etc., general material is filed first, and is followed by a class number in parenthesis, e.g. 977.3(332) banking in Illinois. This scheme is evidently adapted from the Brussels. Also, as this library does not emphasize political history as such, history, description and other general matter can be combined under one number, as 977.3.

*Harriet Penfield*





THE JOHN CRERAR LIBRARY  
(Permanent Building)

## X

## *The Permanent Building*



The beginnings were modest, the view of the future depending on circumstances, patronage, development and growth. Growth came rapidly, patronage followed closely. In 1898 we began to need a separate space for rare and valuable books and others that needed special care. A dark room for photographic work and a special nook for the janitor's paraphernalia also were called for. These were provided. The tiny dark room served for twenty years, the "cage" for rare books of restricted use, nearly as long. The janitor's enclave (two steps up) measured 6 by 8 feet, and never were more tools and paraphernalia packed in an equal space.

The writer visited the Library in the spring of 1898 and found the premises compact, snug like a ship's cabin, but very dignified and impressive. Too many libraries are burdened with ample space where space is superfluous and cramped quarters where ample room is needed. Our old quarters certainly never displayed much vacant space at any time. Officers in need of a short rest between day and evening service occasionally would recline on a shelf in the dark room while dusk enveloped the City. Probably this compactness of quarters would not be approved by the present generation, accustomed as it is to school buildings and college halls that would answer the traditional demands of potentates and their retinue.

Additional space was provided in 1900 directly below the Reading Room, with a stack capacity of 68,000 volumes. The stacks were a composition of various types, as we wished to test these in anticipation of the needs in the permanent building.

In 1902 the Librarian concluded that the natural patronage does not rise with the increase of mere space, and he did not ask for an extension of the Reading Room. Nor was the Reading Room ever extended until 1907, when the Medical Department craved that consideration; and even then the expansion followed conservative plans.

In 1904 and later years the Newberry Library kindly yielded working space for the clearing of the large collections rapidly coming in. Then followed the transfer of Medicine and allied subjects, and with that came our expansion over the rest of the fifth floor in the Marshall Field Building. It involved arduous tasks for everybody. Almost on the heels of this development came the decision to build a mezzanine floor between the fifth and sixth floors. This floor went in. Adjoining the Library quarters the Marshall Field complex of buildings was under construction, and across the street the skeletons of other buildings arose. For several years the library staff and the readers were exposed from day to day to the irrepressible clank of riveting machines, while the Elevated Railroad furnished an incessant monotone accompaniment. Curiously, nobody seemed to mind, at least the writer never heard complaints. Our central location compensated for all temporary disturbances incidental to Chicago life. But the Librarian, having been dislodged from his tiny sunlit cabin facing Washington Street by the invasion of the Medical Reading Room (The Senn Room) retired to a minute cubicle on the inner court and remained there, in comparative quiet, but working only by artificial light, until we moved out in 1920.

In 1910 the permanent stacks were calculated for a capacity of 300,000 volumes, including storage space for the

then voluminous arrears. The Reading Rooms had a capacity of 275 seats for readers.



The Will of Mr. Crerar anticipated that as the Newberry Library presumably accommodated patrons from the North side of the City, the site of the proposed new library might be chosen with preference to the South division of Chicago. Circumstances altered this prospect, the Crerar Library was established in the very heart of our City. This decision developed from a conviction on the part of the Directors that Chicago would offer a site for our permanent building. This prophecy came from many quarters and crystallized quite naturally in public opinion, being voiced by influential men and by our newspapers. The Newberry Library was born, so to say, with a site for its permanent building, but Mr. Crerar never had seen fit to invest in real estate.

Six years after the opening of our Library in its temporary quarters the first step to secure a free site for a permanent building was taken, in that the forty second General Assembly of the State of Illinois passed "An Act to authorize the John Crerar Library to erect and maintain a free public library on Grant Park, commonly called Lake Park or Lake Front Park, in the City of Chicago," approved March 29, 1901, in force July 31, of the same year. This Act granted to the Library "that portion of the Lake Front Park lying between Madison and Monroe streets." It carried the provision that the Library "shall procure the consent of such abutting property owners as have the right to object to the erecting of said library building, and the possession and use of said land for library purposes, before beginning the construction of said buildings." Other provisions followed, tending to safeguard the interests of the City of Chicago and of the abutting property owners in

their rights and privileges with reference to land in Lake Front Park.

This grant and its sequels calls for a brief recapitulation of the history of the Chicago Lake Front and the rights of the City and its citizens in its status as a public park.

The Fort Dearborn Military Reservation established in 1804, extended from the Chicago River to Madison Street and from Lake Michigan to the present State Street, and embraced a quarter-section of land.

In 1837, the year of Chicago's incorporation, the S. W. quarter of the above mentioned area, was subdivided by order of the Secretary of War, and recorded two years later. The parts now occupied by the Chicago Public Library and by that part of Grant Park which lies North of Madison Street, were designated on the 1839 plat as public grounds, forever to remain vacant of buildings.

The next disposition which interests us was that in 1836 the area between Madison Street and the present Twelfth Street and between the Lake and the present State Street was divided into lots and blocks.

This was done by the corporation known as the Board of Commissioners of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, authorized by a State act of the same year. In the pertaining plat, the portion between Michigan Ave. and the edge of the Lake, was left as vacant, except the one block immediately East of Michigan Ave., and North of Twelfth Street. The balance of the said vacant space was marked "Open Ground — No Building."

The recording of the two named plats in fact vested in the City of Chicago the title to all portions of the plats marked or noted as granted to the public for public use.

In the Fort Dearborn Addition, in fractional section 10, the spaces now occupied by the Public Library, and the Lake Front (Park), from Madison Street North, were reserved to be forever vacant of public buildings.

Furthermore, the space from Madison Street to Park Row and East of Michigan Ave., was similarly reserved.

The laws of the State provide that when land is thus dedicated, the abutting property owners have an easement, that such lands shall be maintained in accordance with their dedication. In the present case the property owners concerned were those who had acquired land both North and South of Madison Street, West of Michigan Avenue.

The legal conclusion from these facts and circumstances is that two groups of interests are involved in the integrity of Lake Front Park. There is a public interest, represented by the City on behalf of the people at large. Curiously, there also is a private interest, represented by the abutting property owners.

There appears to be no particularly urgent reason why the public interest would be thus supported by the private interests. It may be that the abutting property owners originally paid proportionately higher prices for their holdings in consequence of the easement with which they were privileged; in other words, their properties were more valuable by reason of their fronting a public park. This, however, is an un-legal conclusion, because in 1836 the lake front was not under consideration as a park. Practically, the easement might be interpreted as a protection against the possible (although not probable) diversion of the City's interests in the lands involved.

If such a diversion should be attempted by a proposed erection of buildings in Lake Front Park, the legal conception is that three conditions must be fulfilled: a) A grant from the State, expressed in an Act; b) a similar grant from the City of Chicago, expressed in an act by the Council; c) the consent of those abutting property owners whose interests were affected.



On March 18, 1901, the Common Council of the City of Chicago passed an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance authorizing the John Crerar Library to erect and maintain a

free public library on Grant Park, commonly called Lake Park or Lake Front Park, in the City of Chicago," repeating the designation of the locality granted by the State Act and the attendant provisions.

Under date of January 21, 1904, the Crerar Directors made a request of the South Park Commissioners for permission to erect a library building on the designated lot between Madison and Monroe Streets, "the general style of the building to be classical and the approximate cost to be one million Dollars." The question of granting this request was submitted to the voters of the South Park District at the municipal election held April 4, 1904. There were 50,960 votes cast in favor of granting the request and 9,329 against. The Directors thereupon proceeded to obtain plans and perfect further arrangements.

The South Park Commissioners in due course, on February 15, 1905, passed "An Ordinance concerning the John Crerar Library," and it was accepted at once by the Library Directors. Two weeks before this the Directors, however, had received notice that the erection of a library building in Grant Park would be opposed by a group of abutting property owners. It is not clear why the consent of all abutting property owners concerned in the disposition of the property in question, had not previously been asked. As it was, the Directors asked the South Park Commissioners to condemn the easement held by the objectors. The Commissioners took the position that such condemnation proceedings need not be instituted until the construction of the building should be actually interfered with. They already were concerned with the legal negotiation relative to the erection of the Field Museum of Natural History on another site in Grant Park, this project having been opposed by the same abutting property owners who now vindicated their easement in the case of the Library. The Field Museum case had gone into the Circuit Court, and this resulted in an Order dated July 2, 1905, forbidding all work on the Field building.

Our Directors still insisted on their request for condem-

nation of the easement on their behalf, but the South Park Commissioners preferred to have the two cases decided together. In their Report for 1906-08 the Commissioners printed a statement written by Mr. L. A. Busby describing the John Crerar Library and accompanied by a reproduction of the proposed Library building. Another article, likewise by Mr. Busby, touched upon the St. Gaudens statue of Abraham Lincoln, which was favored with a site at a sufficiently late date.

The Grant Park site under debate covered 400 by 310 feet, and the length of the proposed building would be about 300 feet.

The suit instituted by the abutting property owners continued pending through 1906, 1907 and 1908, but at length was carried to the Illinois Supreme Court in the fall of 1909 and was decided against the Field Museum. Upon this our Directors renewed their request to have condemnation proceedings instituted against the easement of the abutting property owners. Our Handbook of the Library printed in 1910 still voiced the hope of a permanent building in Grant Park.

Two suits finally were brought as test cases in the Superior Court of Cook County by the South Park Commissioners on behalf of the Library and tried in March, 1910 before Judge Wm. H. McSurely, who ruled adversely to the Library's and the South Park Commissioners' interests. This decision was appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court, which handed down its decision on December 21, 1910, affirming the decision of the Superior Court. A rehearing was asked for and denied.

Thus ended our first plans for a permanent building. There are two sides to every matter and more than two to some. Chicago citizens are entitled to their lake front, and the Park Commissioners deserve credit and praise for what they have done to make it worthy of our community. But it seems a pity that nowhere in the City would a free site be found for an institution recognized as a civic asset of the

first order, and that the Library should pay an annual tax of more or less than thirty thousand Dollars for the privilege of serving and, as we have been led to believe, benefiting the City, the State and the Nation.



In 1911 the Directors appointed a special committee to consider and report on the question of the permanent location. Many offers were received to sell or to lease, and at length, in 1912, a recommendation was approved providing for the purchase of the North West corner of Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street. This property has a frontage of 135 feet on Michigan Avenue and about 128 feet on Randolph Street. It consists of part of lot 20 and all of lots 21-25 in block 10 of the Fort Dearborn Addition to Chicago and is located immediately North of the Public Library. The Directors considered that the fullest possible extent of utilization of this property would provide for about 120 years and decided to build first on the very corner, treating the two adjacent buildings as an income-producing investment (hence the taxes) until they should be needed for extension.

In 1913 Messrs. Holabird and Roche of Chicago were appointed architects of the Library, and proceeded to prepare sketch plans for a building designed to occupy a portion of the site. The Librarian also began to calculate space and its distribution. The Board, however, decided not to begin construction until May, 1917. Meanwhile the last parts of the space available in our old quarters were secured and equipped, the leases being extended to May 1, 1920. The War being then in progress, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds (Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Chauncey Keep, Mr. Jones and Mr. Borland), kept considering and revising the plans for the building, aided by the Librarian. The result was that in October, 1919, the Board approved the erection of what constituted one-third of the projected complete building, and

a contract was made with the George A. Fuller Company. The old buildings speedily disappeared, and before the end of the year the foundation, twenty-eight concrete caissons eighty-five feet deep, had been completed.

The building, now generally known, and planned by Holabird and Roche, was at the time of its erection somewhat a new departure in library architecture. Its total cost was about \$1,350,000. Its height is two hundred feet, and its space measures 1,560,000 cubic feet. The construction is steel, with tile arches, the outer walls of Bedford stone. Its plan implies a vertical instead of a horizontal extension. The reading rooms and their attendant conveniences have their place at the top of the building, away from the din of down-town traffic. In a slightly different way the house is as compact as were our old quarters. The space, sixteen floors of nearly 75 by 75 feet, is economically employed, the impression of the public departments quiet and dignified. There are no grand stairways and indeed little room for purely decorative features, much as these elements might have their proper place here as elsewhere. The style is modified and modernized Romanesque. The seven stack floors, six of them built as a unit, were designed to accommodate about 110,000 volumes each.

The three lower floors are leased for business purposes, as are the old buildings, North and West.

The completion of the building coincided closely with the termination of our lease in the Field Building. We closed our doors on May 1, 1920, and the writer removed the outer and inner knobs of the door through which about three million visits had been made during a period of more than 25 years — a much longer period than anybody had anticipated. The old door knobs, suitably mounted, continued their service as paper weights in the Librarian's office.

The period of moving and the attendant uprooting and replanting of many things before we became properly settled in the new building is, like all other changes of this kind, a nightmare. The most valuable books were sent to a

storage warehouse, the remainder placed in the building next North of the Library building. Here also were our temporary offices. The routine work continued pretty steadily from May to the end of the year. Actually the Library was closed only for two months. At the end of August a temporary reading room was opened on the third floor of the new building, with access by a narrow stairway (a built-in fire escape). From September to the following February and May this temporary reading room functioned the attendants sliding down stairs to the street, into the adjoining building, up a freight elevator to where the books were lying, backs up (showing the call numbers), finding the call (or not), then back again. To replace them would require the same journey over again. It is a wonder that the books were not injured more than they were, and even more of a wonder that readers were served. In February 1921, the medical reading room was ready for occupation. On May 27 the fourteenth floor stood fully equipped. It was dedicated on May 28 by an appropriate ceremony directed by the Board and a brief address by the Librarian, and the building as a whole thrown open to the public on May 30, when all the books were in place in the new stacks, if not indeed in their right place. It took a year and more to place the books in proper order.



The reading rooms and all the other floors of the new building are connected with the stack floors by a double elevator service: three passenger lifts and two book lifts. But the main avenue for the journeys of books between the stacks and any other floor is a book conveyor electrically controlled, governed by switches permitting mechanical delivery between any two floors in the building. The principle is an endless chain carrying trays which deliver their contents onto movable receiving platforms also governed by switches. Call slips pass from the reading rooms to the stack

floors in leather cylinders dropping to their proper place by simple gravity. This delivery system, supported by two separate, smaller electric lifts (for large and bulky volumes) was built by the Lamson Company and did good service. It had worn itself out in 1940 and then was replaced by a new and improved apparatus of the same type, built by the same company, with many new appliances added but especially constructed of much heavier material than its predecessor. This continues to be very satisfactory.

Minor changes have been made in the use of our space. The reference desk system has been extended and developed as occasion and our growing patronage made necessary. Other needs loom up from time to time as they must in a building where the available space grows less and less and a constant influx of property and the demands for its use make themselves felt. But these are minor worries which, while recognized by the Board and the Library's officers, will be dissolved gradually. Two world wars have taught us to do the utmost with what we have in hand.

## *The John Crerar Library Printing Office*



Our mid-western social and economic development was greatly facilitated by the aid of the inland waterways. Along the magnificent course of the Mississippi River a significant civilization pushed forward its outposts during the first half of the nineteenth century. In Illinois, Galena became such a center, but it is less generally known that the small town of Oquawka on the Mississippi, thirty miles from Galena, had its own group of not only commercial but also of literary and historically minded persons who expressed our colonial traditions with success and effect. The town had some minor industries and for years produced considerable amounts of pearl buttons, a harvest from the great River, on the opposite banks of which lay the city of Burlington, long a center of shipping and trading.

Col. J. B. Patterson had come out from Virginia and in 1834 printed the *Life of Blackhawk* from authentic sources. In 1848 he founded the *Oquawka Spectator*, which was continued for sixty years under three editors, first the founder, then his son Edwin H. N. Patterson, and finally the third generation, represented in Harry N. Patterson. Edwin Patterson had distinct literary ambitions. He aimed to establish a popular magazine for the Northwest and entered into correspondence with none less than Edgar Allan Poe with a view to secure his talent as an editor. An account

of this interesting interlude was given in *Some Letters of Edgar Allan Poe to E. H. N. Patterson of Oquawka*, with Comments by Eugene Field, Chicago, The Caxton Club, 1898.

The Oquawka Spectator was printed on a hand press made in Cincinnati in the early forties, a typical Franklin press. It still exists, fully able to function, and may now be seen in the Museum of Science and Industry to which it was transferred from the John Crerar Library some years ago.

Harry N. Patterson was born in Oquawka in 1853, succeeded his father in 1884 and in the same year was married to Florence A. Beaty, who capably and faithfully stood by him in his editorial and social work and in the conduction of his printing office until 1919, when Mr. Patterson passed away.

He was an unusual man in several ways. Apart from his excellent traditions as a leader of public opinion and conduct, he was a botanist of recognized ability and published in 1876 a catalogue of the flora of Illinois, collaborated for many years with Dr. Asa Gray and other scientists of renown and assembled an herbarium which now forms part of the botanical collections of the Field Museum in Chicago. At one time Mr. Patterson was offered the position as First Assistant Chief of the Division of Botany, U. S. Department of Agriculture, but he preferred a free activity and chose to remain in the town of his ancestors. A gifted man, remembered for his noble aspirations, although modest and retiring in asserting them, he had, and deserved, the respect of the whole region that witnessed his activities.

Our Librarian, Mr. C. W. Andrews, had heard of Patterson's work as a printer of botanical cards, lists of plants, etc. The information came from Dr. Geo. Vasey, of the Department of Agriculture in Washington. So when the Library decided to print its catalogue in card form, Andrews approached Patterson, and the connection proved most fortunate. The Pattersons — for Mrs. Patterson took her large share and was deeply interested in this work — in-

stinctively comprehended and did what the Library needed and wanted. Type of unusual and peculiar patterns was required, and until the day of this writing the Printing Office has produced about 210,000 titles in average editions of 2 cards per title, with numerous reprintings — a total of approximately three million cards, beside subject guide cards and hundreds of printed forms, including our call slips, not to mention a number of pamphlets issued from time to time by the Library, including our house organ, *The J. C. C. Quarterly* and our third supplement to the List of Books on the History of Science.

Thanks to the excellent work done by the little Oquawka group of printers, and to Mrs. Patterson's courage, the connection between them and the Library continued after Mr. Patterson passed away. The work called for special abilities. It involved titles of books and periodicals in nearly all foreign languages. These printers never missed the points made by our quite exacting cataloguers. In 1920 (1920) the Library found it advantageous for both parties to purchase the type and the presses, and the office assumed the name The John Crerar Library Printing Office, with Mrs. Patterson as manager. When this excellent lady last retired from active work in 1942, she was ably succeeded by Mr. Charles L. Brooks, whose promptness of action quite equals his ability. Both Mrs. Patterson and Mr. Brooks have been intelligently and faithfully assisted by Miss Mabel Hoskins.

In the spring of 1944 we moved from the old and increasingly uncomfortable building near the river bank and obtained other and better, rented quarters. The old Patterson press in 1938 had been sent to Chicago — an historic relic.

This press some years ago was made the subject of a sheaf of reminiscences by Mrs. Patterson. The little essay appeared in our house organ, the *Quarterly*, and we reprint it here.





OLD WASHINGTON PRESS  
(Photo by Dr. Russell H. Anderson)

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD

By MRS. FLORENCE PATTERSON



Old Press, if there are "sermons in stones, books in the running brooks" isn't there a tongue in you? I thought so. Let's talk over old times and the folks you've known since you left the Cincinnati foundry, a young shining thing nearly a hundred years ago. You were the first press brought into the state of Iowa. I don't blame you for being a bit proud of it. The Henderson County History tells about that, too. "In 1848 he (Col. Patterson) commenced the publication of the Spectator. The press on which the Spectator has been printed since its advent was the first press brought into Iowa on which the Burlington Gazette was printed for some years, and is still a good press." (Simpson, Jonathan. History of Mercer and Henderson counties. Chicago, 1882, p. 963.) After working for years on the Burlington Gazette, Col. J. B. Patterson bought you in 1848 and established the Oquawka Spectator which you printed for sixty years. He was a veteran newspaper man from Virginia. I have a copy of the Leesburg Observer he published in 1829. He came west, and was assistant to the Indian Agent, Major Davenport, at Rock Island and was there when Black Hawk returned from his tour of the east. At the chief's request, he wrote and published Black Hawk's autobiography in 1834. The next Patterson who worked with you was his son, Edwin H. N. He was an ardent admirer of Edgar Allan Poe and collected nearly everything that genius had written. I should have been shot at sunrise for giving to the junk man armfuls of magazines that contained Poe's articles. They were in the Patterson house when I was taken there a bride and after dusting them 25 years I thought that was enough. Poe's prose gave me the creeps, does yet, but my sense of value has undergone a change. Poe always wanted a magazine of his own and plans were perfected just before his death for the establishment of one, named by him The Stylus. Poe was to edit it and Patterson to publish it in St. Louis. Eugene Field tells the story and gives facsimile reproductions of the Poe-Patterson letters in the de luxe edition of a volume prepared for the Caxton Club. Mr. Bay probably has it. Our copy is with the Colorado Historical Society,

with other interesting things concerning that Patterson who was a pioneer journalist of Colorado.

The last Patterson you served was my Patterson, Harry N., the John Crerar Library's first printer, serving from 1895 to 1919. As a small lad, his love for plants was so pronounced, his father taught him the names of those growing hereabouts and how to analyze them. By the time he was 19 he had collected 709 species growing within a radius of three miles from town and had kept record of their flowering and fruitage for three years. Some people struggle to obtain a printing office but this chap had one thrust upon him. It wasn't altogether intolerable if he could print botanical names, so he published Plants of Illinois, Plants of North America and botanical check lists and labels for collectors from Oregon to Central America. His extensive herbarium is in the Field museum. After he acquitted me, I became step-mother to that newspaper his grandfather had established and wrote its copy twenty years. Mr. Patterson's side of the printing office was botanical, mine newspaper and John Crerar Library.

One day Mr. Patterson came home bringing a surprise, a letter from Clement W. Andrews asking him to submit a bid for printing catalogue cards for the John Crerar Library. This was in 1895. The library was just a bornin' and he hadn't heard about it. Neither had the name of Clement Andrews appeared on his horizon. And what was a card catalogue anyway? Mr. Patterson's business was botanical printing. This was before the universal use of typewriters and the intellectuals wrote very much like Mr. Wilcox. Mr. Patterson knew what they were writing about, and he spelled like Gray's Manual, so his interpretations pleased them greatly. It was years before he learned that a botanical patron of Washington D. C., had recommended him to Dr. Andrews as a careful printer. That is the materialistic way of accounting for the choice of the Library's first printer. A mystic would say it was a heaven sent job for an hour of need. A staunch Presbyterian would say, "Dinna yet ken it was foreordained that John Crerar's gold should put flour in his bin?" I believe all three. The Library wanted to exhibit its 16 incunabula and other early printed books at a meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science and the Bibliographical Society of America to be held in Chicago in 1907, and sent a list of them to be put in until he got it. Those were hectic and never-to-be-forgotten moments. No such characters as some of those the copy called for were made and we had to manufacture them by filing down letters and fitting in piece accents, and this at

top speed ; Mr. Josephson made his train and took the work with him and we knew how the A. E. F. boys felt when they said "It can't be done — here it is."

Mr. Patterson had another worth while surprise. Dr. Geo. Vasey, U. S. botanist, invited him to come to Washington and be his first assistant. Leave the house and town where he was born, the hills, the river, the hundreds of plant faces he knew and loved and live in a city? No, thank you. To avoid trouble in the family, the offer was not made known to his wife until six months after it had been declined.

Yes, old Press, my world came to an end in 1919, when the good man whose name I bear, died, as he had lived, a Christian gentleman.

That was the summer you had your one and only vacation and I had my one and only disagreement with the JCL. I asked an increase of \$800 on Mr. Patterson's estimate. My shocked chief answered "No!" In smooth and polished phrase I replied, in substance, "take your printing to Timbuctoo. I'm done." My advice was heeded only in part. Donnelley's was the destination. The cataloguer told me work that summer cost three times more than had been paid the Oquawka office. I found out some things, too. From the region of my fifth rib, there was a curious sort of a bond attaching me to that big, impersonal thing, the library. I was lonesome and homesick without it. So when I was invited to reopen the Oquawka office, I trod delicately, wore a meek and humble visage, but resumed work at my own price. The problem of finance has worked itself out to our mutual satisfaction. JCL now owns this printshop and I am manager of an office with most of the grief taken out. No longer is there even a strange look to a book title in any of the languages of Europe but I confess to no infatuation for Polish. I like my work, look eagerly for the day's task, and am content.

Old Press, I remember your most agonizing experience. It was when I moved the office. You had to be taken to bits and carried down stairs to the new office and reassembled. No trick at all for a man who knows presses, but how could I tell your arms from your legs and articulate your vitals? If you hadn't been just a Washington hand press and made before evolution got in any work on you, the drayman and I would never have made it. You take a first class proof so you are in working condition whether everything is exactly right or not. I've looked at your old belt and thought if the cow which furnished that hide had started a family tree, a JCL bookstack

could not contain all the books that might have been written. Did you ever have a new belt?

As I stand here, Old Timer, with my hand on your arm, and evening shadows have crept in and enfolded us, I think of the years we have been together. We know there is a junk heap waiting for us, but sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, we know it will be sunrise, tomorrow.

XII

## *The Finances*









BEQUESTS, GIFTS, AND INCOME AI  
For the Period from April 1, 1

BEQUESTS AND GIFTS

Under Will of

John Crerar .....	..
Robert Forsyth .....	..
Thomas D. Jones .....	..
Huntington W. Jackson .....	..
Michael A. Lane .....	..
Crerar Lincoln Fund .....	..
Nathan Smith Davis, Jr. Fund .....	..
Henry Gradle Memorial Fund .....	..

INCOME AND EXPENSE FROM OPERATIONS

Income

Interest and Dividends .....	\$7,941,845.6
Endowment Fund .....	311,282.6
Robert Forsyth Fund .....	24,372.9
Thomas D. Jones Fund .....	12,436.2

Rentals and Other Income from Buildings .....	..
Net Profit on Sale of Securities .....	..
Other Income .....	..

Expenses Allocated from Income

Maintenance and Other Expenses on Buildings

Depreciation .....	
Books .....	1,342,271.2
Furniture and Fixtures .....	201,968.7

Salaries .....	..
Rent, Light, and Heat .....	..
Printing and Supplies .....	..
Custody and Financial .....	..
Insurance on Books .....	..
Other Expenses not Itemized .....	..

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES .....

*Total Bequests, Gifts, and Excess of Income  
Over Expenses from Operations .....*

REPRESENTED BY	Net Purchases
Investments in Fixed Assets .....	
Land and Buildings .....	\$2,632,071.6
Books .....	2,042,337.2
Furniture and Fixtures .....	232,318.9
	<u>\$4,906,748.7</u>

Investments in Securities

Bonds (Market Value \$1,519,098.63) .....	..
Stocks (Market Value \$2,159,314.50) .....	..

CASH .....

OTHER ASSETS

Prepaid Insurance .....

LESS: CURRENT RESERVES

Taxes for the year 1944 .....

Custody Fees .....

NET ASSETS — December 31, 1944

## D EXPENSE FROM OPERATIONS

95 to December 31, 1944

<i>Securities</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>Total</i>
\$2,211,329.15	\$ 183,715.64	\$2,395,044.79
257,489.23	140,835.82	398,325.05
-	50,000.00	50,000.00
-	1,000.00	1,000.00
-	1,000.00	1,000.00
-	31,586.96	31,586.96
-	5,000.00	5,000.00
-	3,000.00	3,000.00
<u>\$2,468,818.38</u>	<u>\$ 416,138.42</u>	<u>\$2,884,956.80</u>

\$8,289,937.63	
2,878,945.23	
1,199,363.83	
<u>35,350.04</u>	<u>\$12,403,596.73</u>

2,578,205.58

1,544,240.01	
3,323,765.76	
696,569.95	
335,115.02	
58,021.38	
42,192.19	
<u>210,446.72</u>	<u>8,788,556.61</u>

3,615,040.12\$6,499,996.92

<i>Less</i>	<i>Balance</i>
<i>Depreciation</i>	<i>December 31, 1944</i>
\$ -	\$ 2,632,071.90
1,342,271.24	700,086.01
<u>201,968.77</u>	<u>30,350.15</u>
<u>\$1,544,240.01</u>	<u>\$ 3,362,508.00</u>

\$1,511,822.20	
<u>1,610,931.99</u>	<u>3,122,754.19</u>
	36,830.25

	3,879.27	\$6,525,971.77
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	25,704.02	
	<u>270.83</u>	<u>25,974.85</u>
		96 100 006.02



*Board of Directors  
The John Crerar Library  
86 East Randolph Street,  
Chicago, Illinois*

January 29, 1945

GENTLEMEN:

The accounts of the Treasurer of The John Crerar Library have been examined by certified public accountants for each and every year from the first report ended December 31, 1895 until the year ended December 31, 1944, both inclusive. The statement which is printed on the following two pages of this report has been prepared and condensed from annual audits of the accounts of the Treasurer for the fifty year period ended December 31, 1944 and purports, among other things, to show:

1. The bequests and gifts constituting the restricted and unrestricted endowment funds of the Library, totalling.....	\$ 2,884,956.80
2. The income received from interest and dividends, from rentals and other sources, and profits on the sale of securities during the period, totalling .....	12,403,596.73
3. The expenses allocated from income for the maintenance and expenses on the buildings; the salaries, and all expenditures in connection with the Library, including depreciation on books, furniture and fixtures.....	8,788,556.61
4. The excess of income over expenses for the period, in the amount of.....	3,615,040.12

The total of the original bequests and gifts, plus the excess of income over expenses and profits totals \$6,499,996.92 and this figure is represented in this statement by fixed assets and investments in securities, cash and other assets, consisting of:

Library: land, buildings, books, furniture and fixtures .....	\$ 3,362,508.06
Bonds and Stocks	
Market Value—\$3,678,413.13; Book Value	3,122,754.19
Cash and Other Assets .....	40,709.52
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,525,971.77
Less Current Reserves—	
Taxes for the Year 1944.....	\$25,704.02
Custody Fees .....	270.83
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,499,996.92

Copies of audit reports, from which the accompanying statement was prepared are on file in the Treasurer's office.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) *Paul C. Butcher, Treasurer.*















